13

Domestic Girlfriend

KEI SASUGA

DOME×GIRL

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13

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GIRL

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DOME
GIRL

13

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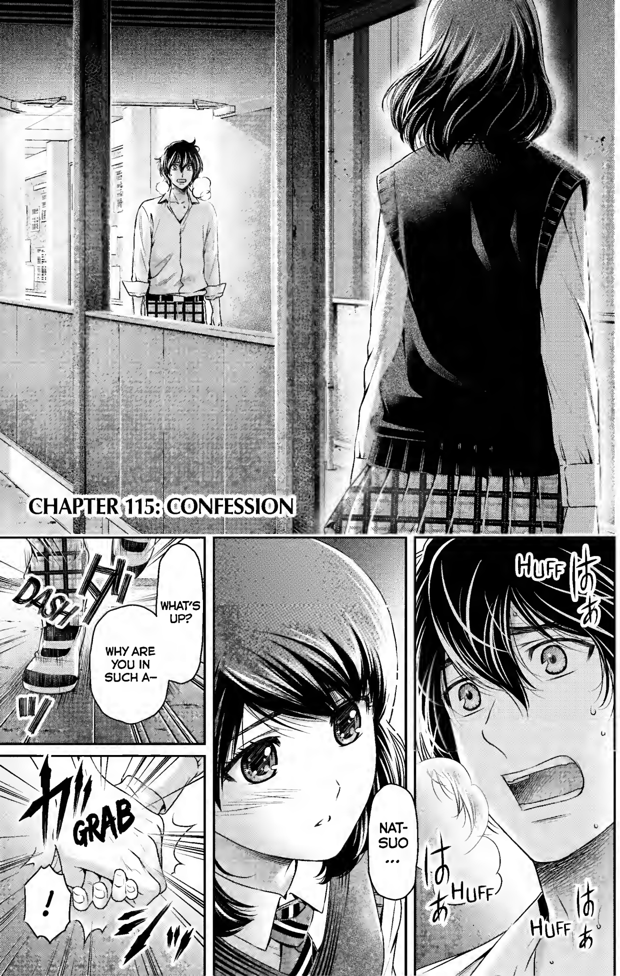
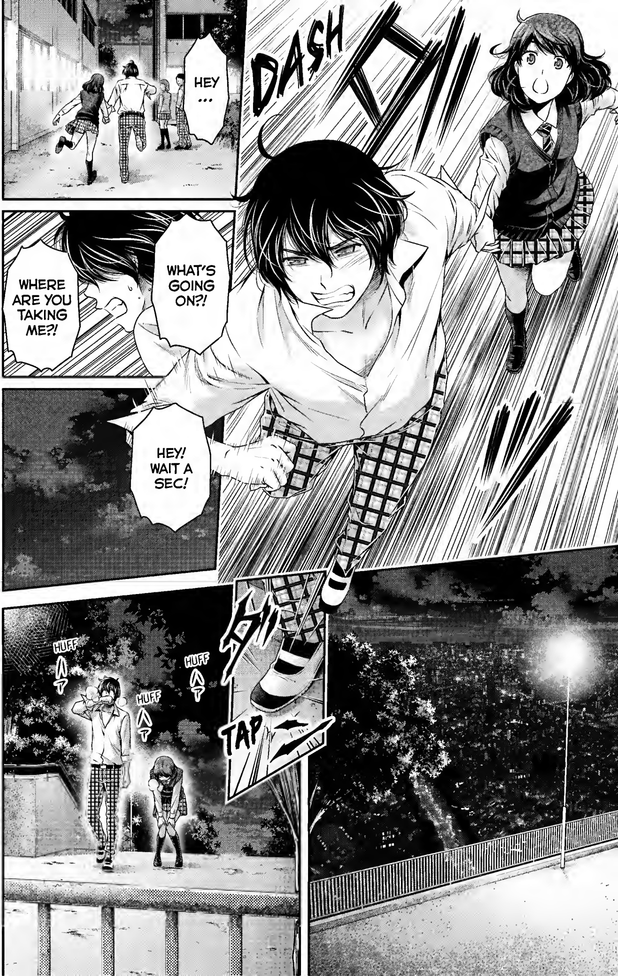
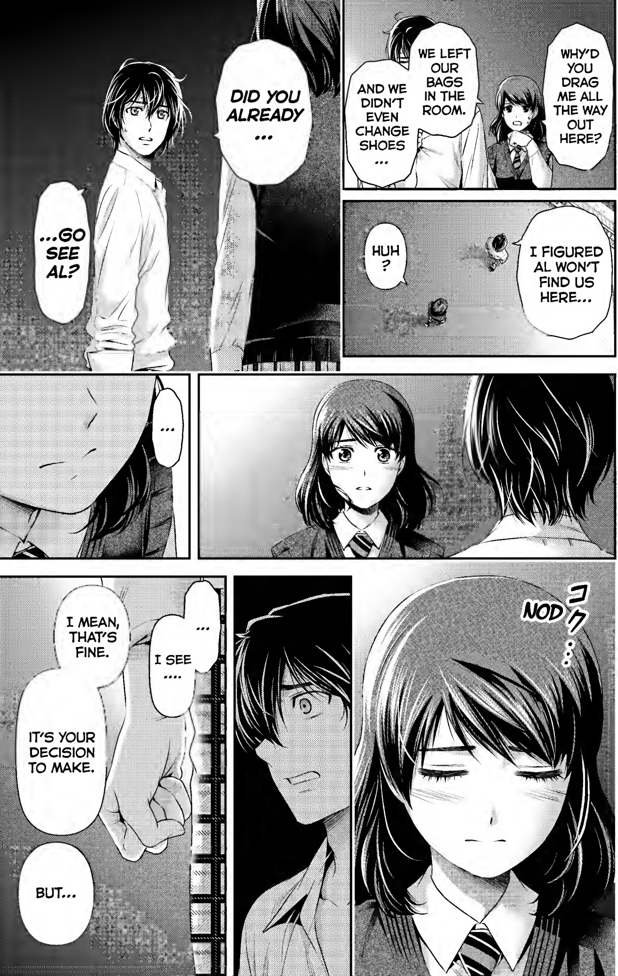
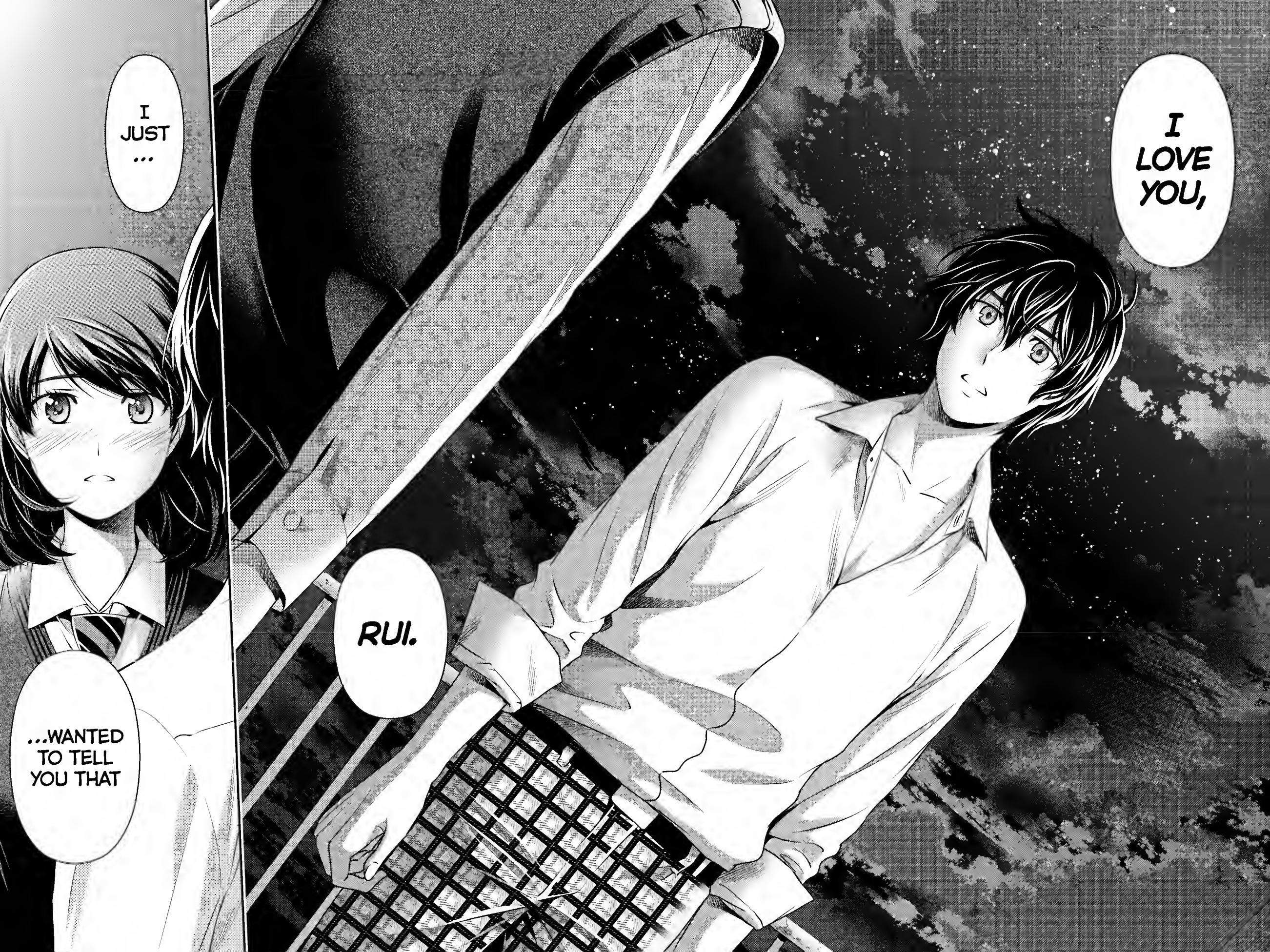
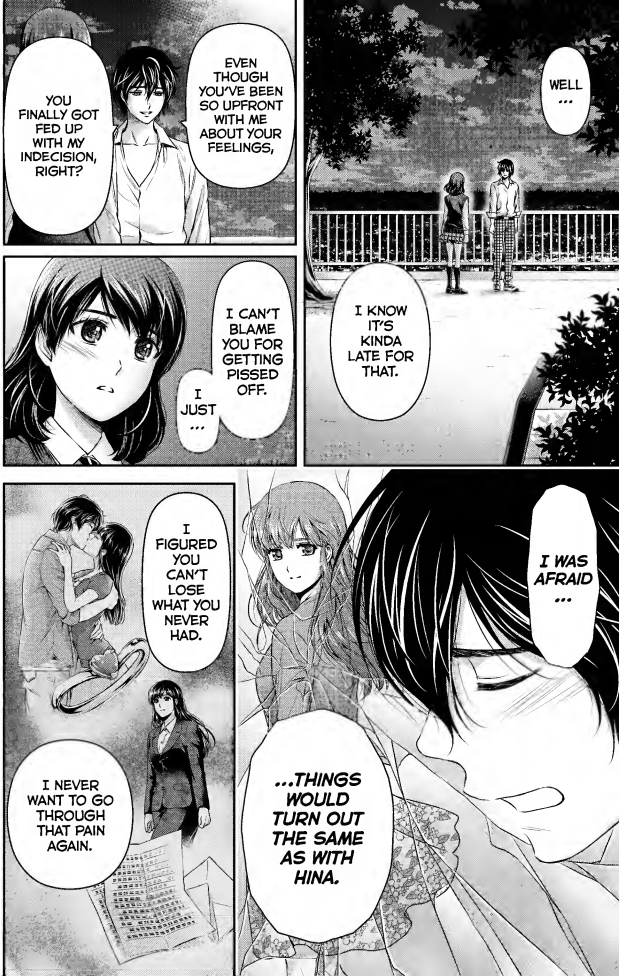
CHAPTER 115: CONFESSION

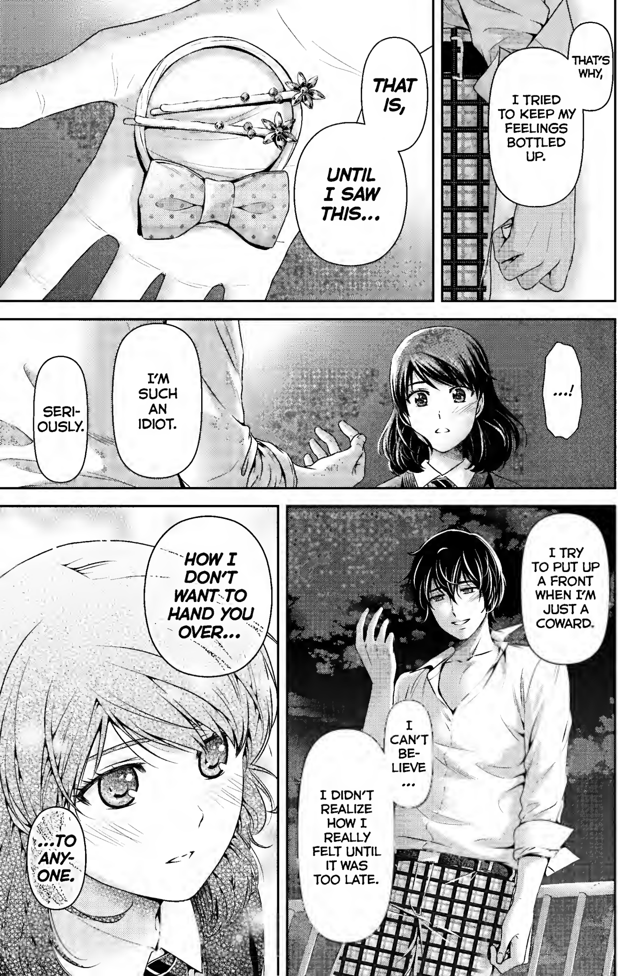

HUFF はあ
NATSUO…
はあ HUFF
はあ HUFF
DASH ダッ
WHAT'S UP?
WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A–
GRAB ガッ
!

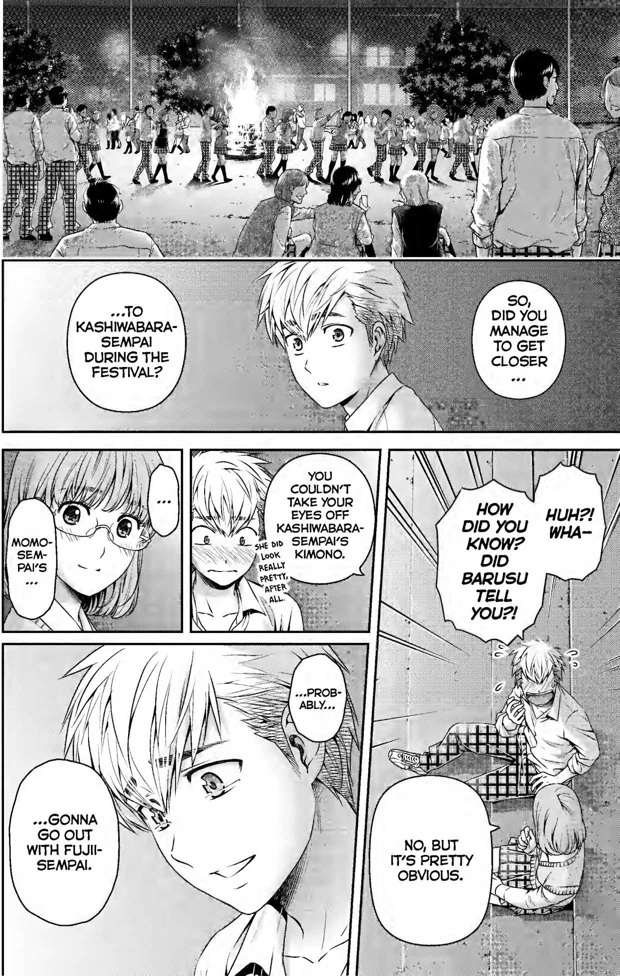

DASH
ダッ
HEY ...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!
HEY! WAIT A SEC!
タッ
TAP
HUFF
ハァ
HUFF
ハァ
HUFF
ハァ

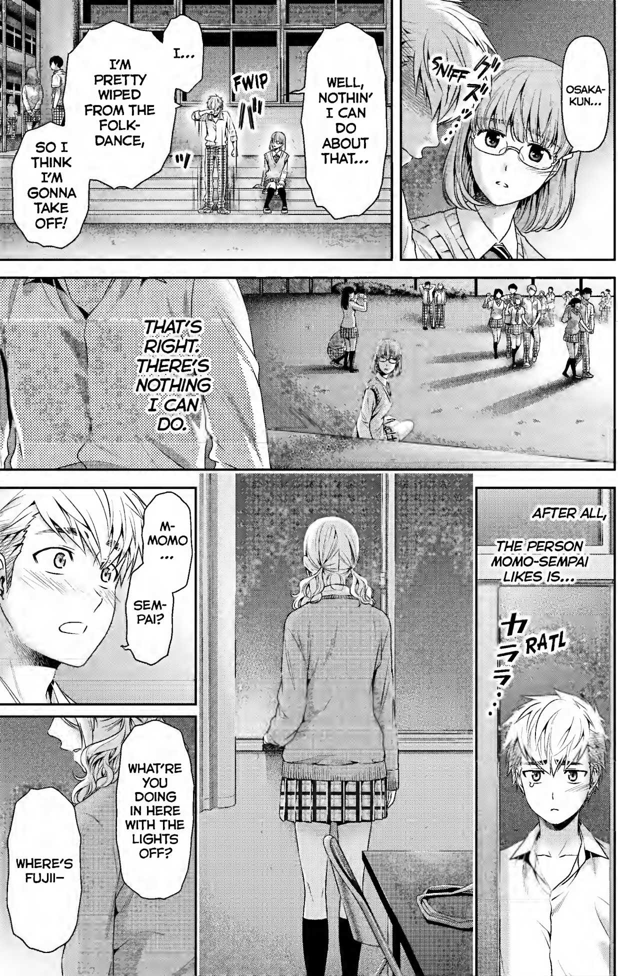

WHY'D YOU DRAG ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
WE LEFT OUR BAGS IN THE ROOM.
AND WE DIDN'T EVEN CHANGE SHOES ...
I FIGURED AL WON'T FIND US HERE...
HUH ?
DID YOU ALREADY ...
...GO SEE AL?
...
NOD
コク...
...
I SEE ....
I MEAN, THAT'S FINE.
IT'S YOUR DECISION TO MAKE.
BUT...

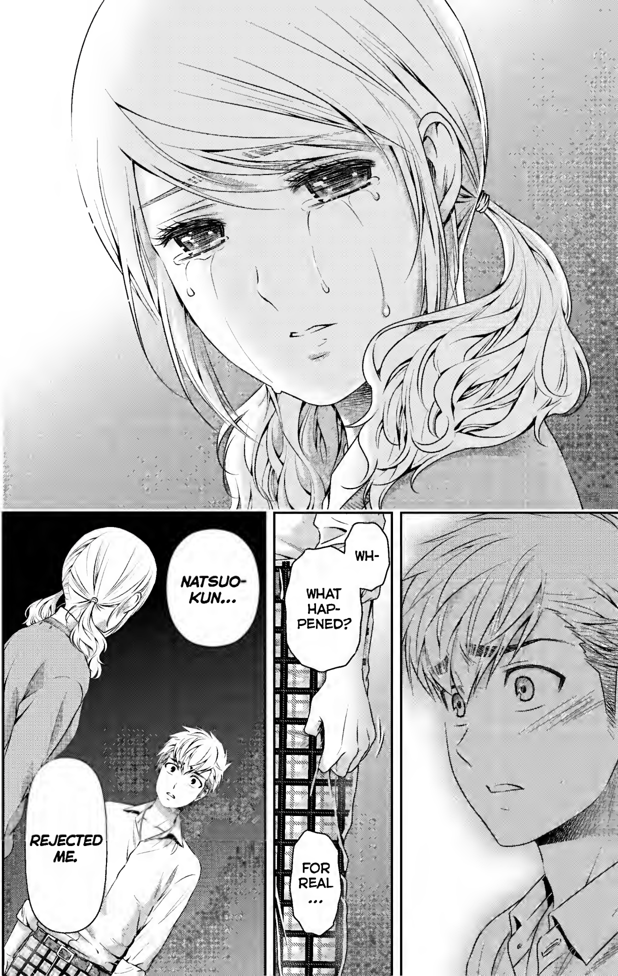

I LOVE YOU,
RUI.
I JUST ...
...WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT

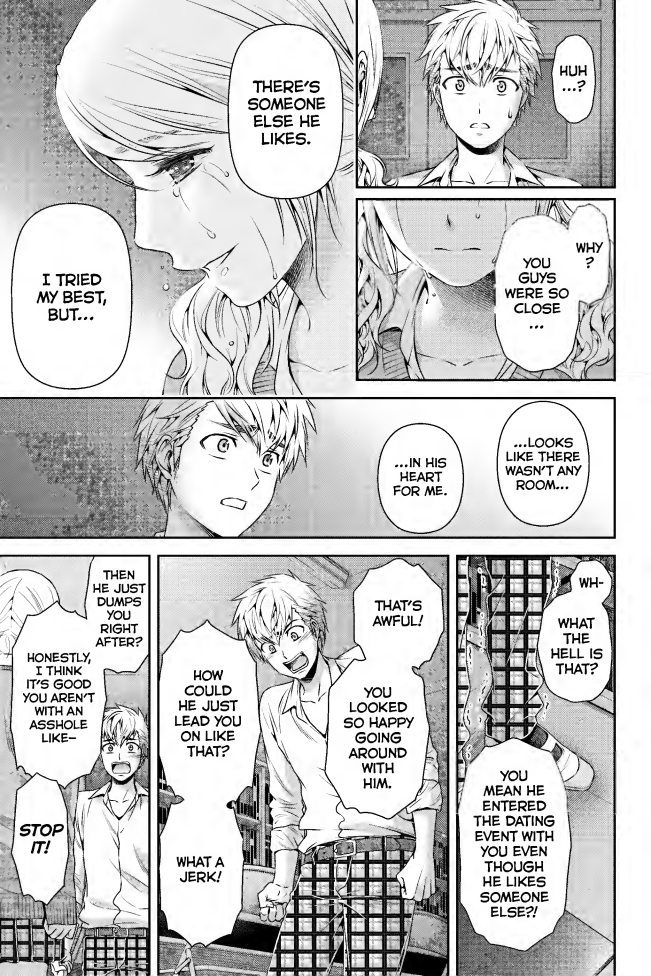

WELL ...
I KNOW IT'S KINDA LATE FOR THAT.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE BEEN SO UPFRONT WITH ME ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS,
YOU FINALLY GOT FED UP WITH MY INDECISION, RIGHT?
I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR GETTING PISSED OFF.
I JUST ...
I WAS AFRAID ...
...THINGS WOULD TURN OUT THE SAME AS WITH HINA.
I FIGURED YOU CAN'T LOSE WHAT YOU NEVER HAD.
I NEVER WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT PAIN AGAIN.

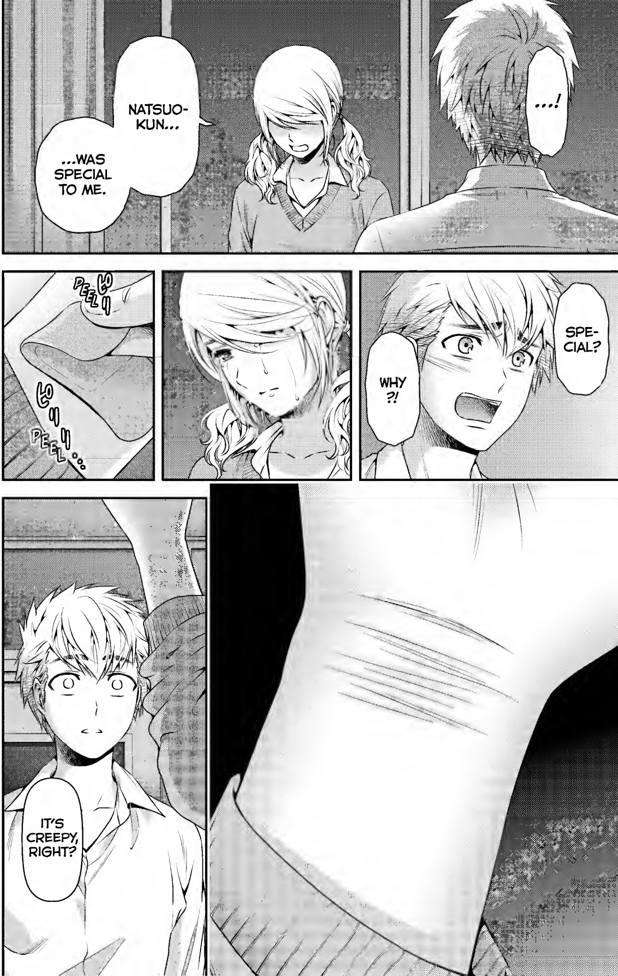

THAT'S WHY, I TRIED TO KEEP MY FEELINGS BOTTLED UP.
THAT IS,
UNTIL I SAW THIS...
...!
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
SERIOUSLY.
I TRY TO PUT UP A FRONT WHEN I'M JUST A COWARD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE...
I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW I REALLY FELT UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.
HOW I DON'T WANT TO HAND YOU OVER...
...TO ANYONE.

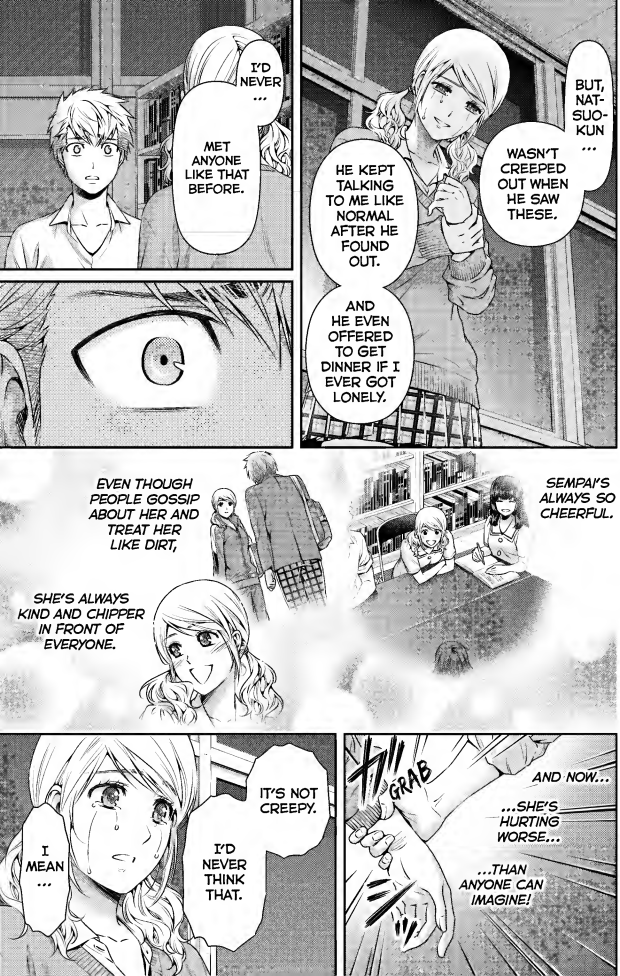

SO, DID YOU MANAGE TO GET CLOSER ...
...TO KASHIWABARA-SEMPAI DURING THE FESTIVAL?
HUH?! WHA-
HOW DID YOU KNOW? DID BARUSU TELL YOU?!
NO, BUT IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS.
YOU COULDN'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF KASHIWABARA-SEMPAI'S KIMONO.
SHE DID LOOK REALLY PRETTY, AFTER ALL.
...
MOMO-SEMPAI'S ...
...PROBABLY...
...GONNA GO OUT WITH FUJII-SEMPAI.

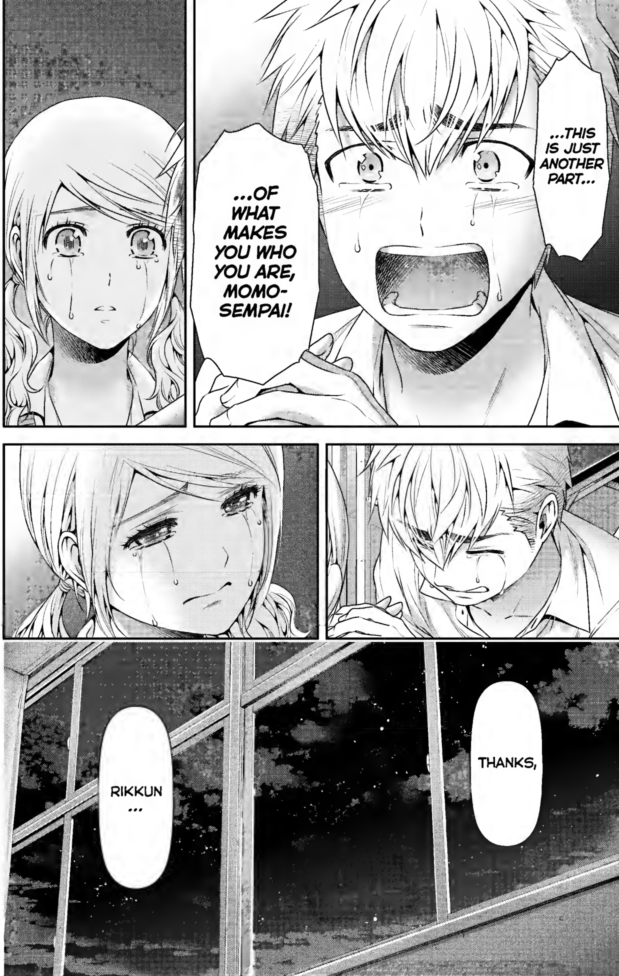

OSAKA-KUN...
SNIFF
グズッ…
WELL, NOTHIN' I CAN DO ABOUT THAT...
FWIP
バッ
I...
I'M PRETTY WIPED FROM THE FOLK-DANCE,
SO I THINK I'M GONNA TAKE OFF!
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
AFTER ALL,
THE PERSON MOMO-SEMPAI LIKES IS...
カラ ラ…
RATL
M-MOMO...
SEM-PAI?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN HERE WITH THE LIGHTS OFF?
WHERE'S FUJII—

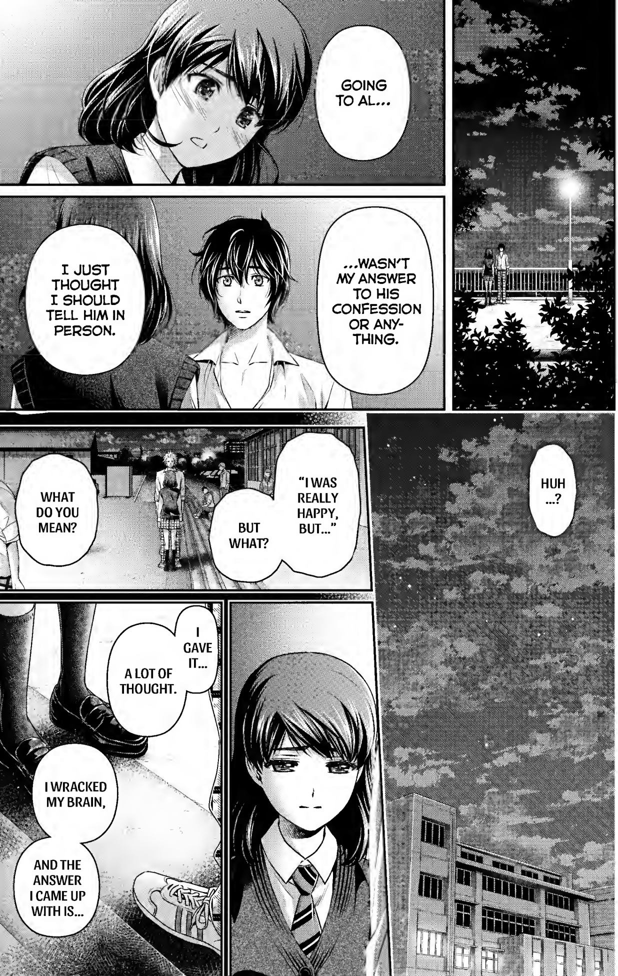

WH-
WHAT HAPPENED?
FOR REAL...
NATSUO-KUN...
REJECTED ME.

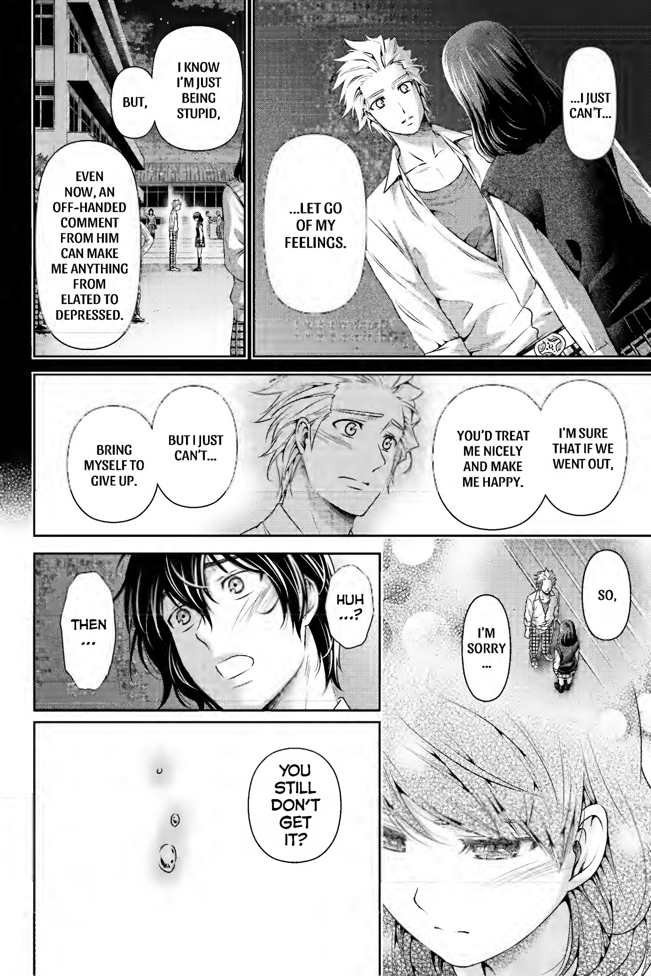

HUH ...?
THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE HE LIKES.
WHY? YOU GUYS WERE SO CLOSE ...
I TRIED MY BEST, BUT...
...LOOKS LIKE THERE WASN'T ANY ROOM...
...IN HIS HEART FOR ME.
WH-
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
YOU MEAN HE ENTERED THE DATING EVENT WITH YOU EVEN THOUGH HE LIKES SOMEONE ELSE?!
THAT'S AWFUL!
YOU LOOKED SO HAPPY GOING AROUND WITH HIM.
HOW COULD HE JUST LEAD YOU ON LIKE THAT?
WHAT A JERK!
THEN HE JUST DUMPS YOU RIGHT AFTER?
HONESTLY, I THINK IT'S GOOD YOU AREN'T WITH AN ASSHOLE LIKE–
STOP IT!

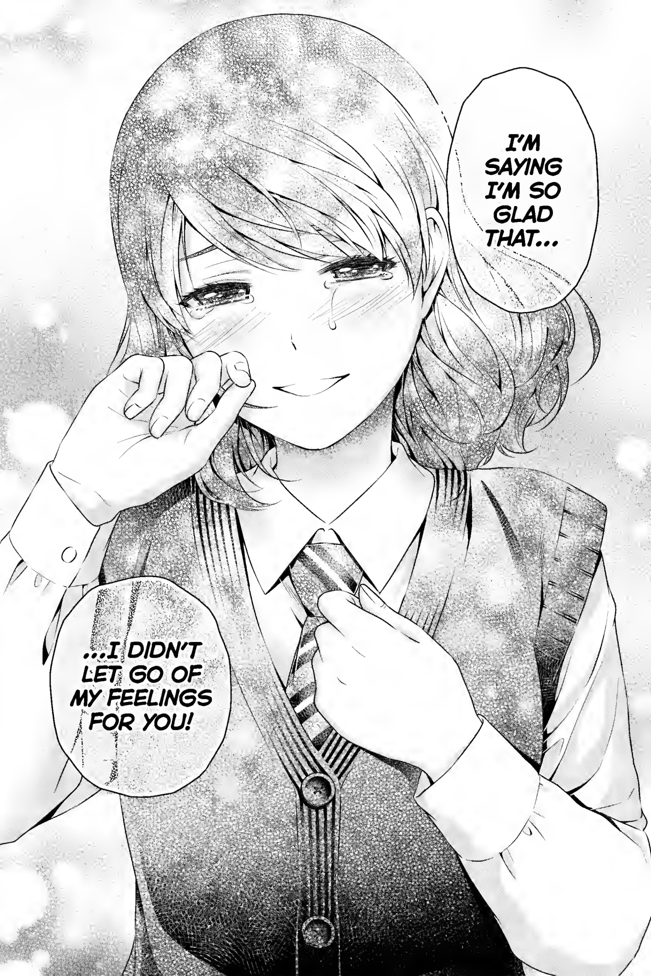

...!
NATSUO-KUN...
...WAS SPECIAL TO ME.
SPE-CIAL?
WHY?!
PEEL
PEEL...
IT'S CREEPY, RIGHT?

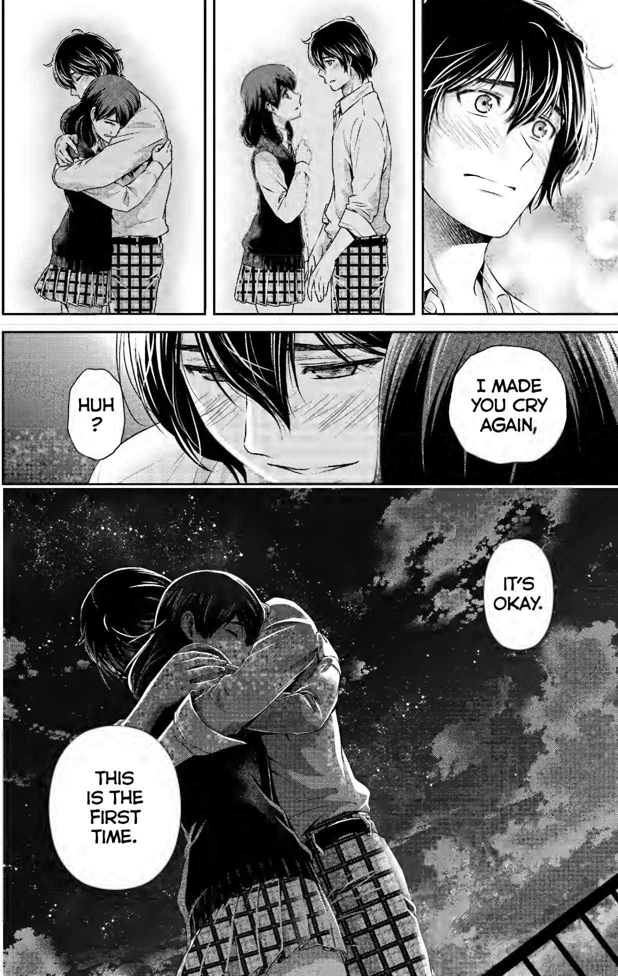

BUT, NATSUO-KUN...
WASN'T CREEPED OUT WHEN HE SAW THESE.
HE KEPT TALKING TO ME LIKE NORMAL AFTER HE FOUND OUT.
AND HE EVEN OFFERED TO GET DINNER IF I EVER GOT LONELY.
I'D NEVER...
MET ANYONE LIKE THAT BEFORE.
SEMPAI'S ALWAYS SO CHEERFUL.
EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE GOSSIP ABOUT HER AND TREAT HER LIKE DIRT,
SHE'S ALWAYS KIND AND CHIPPER IN FRONT OF EVERYONE.
GRAB
AND NOW...
...SHE'S HURTING WORSE...
...THAN ANYONE CAN IMAGINE!
IT'S NOT CREEPY.
I'D NEVER THINK THAT.
I MEAN...


...THIS IS JUST ANOTHER PART...
...OF WHAT MAKES YOU WHO YOU ARE, MOMO-SEMPAI!
THANKS,
RIKKUN ...

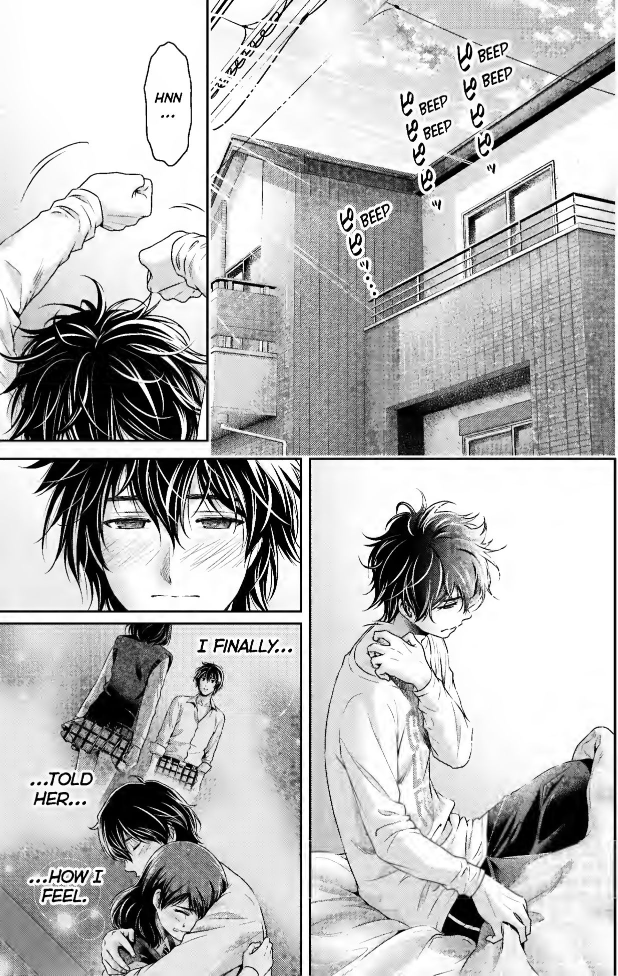

GOING TO AL...
...WASN'T MY ANSWER TO HIS CONFESSION OR ANYTHING.
I JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD TELL HIM IN PERSON.
HUH ...?
"I WAS REALLY HAPPY, BUT..."
BUT WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I GAVE IT...
A LOT OF THOUGHT.
I WRACKED MY BRAIN,
AND THE ANSWER I CAME UP WITH IS...

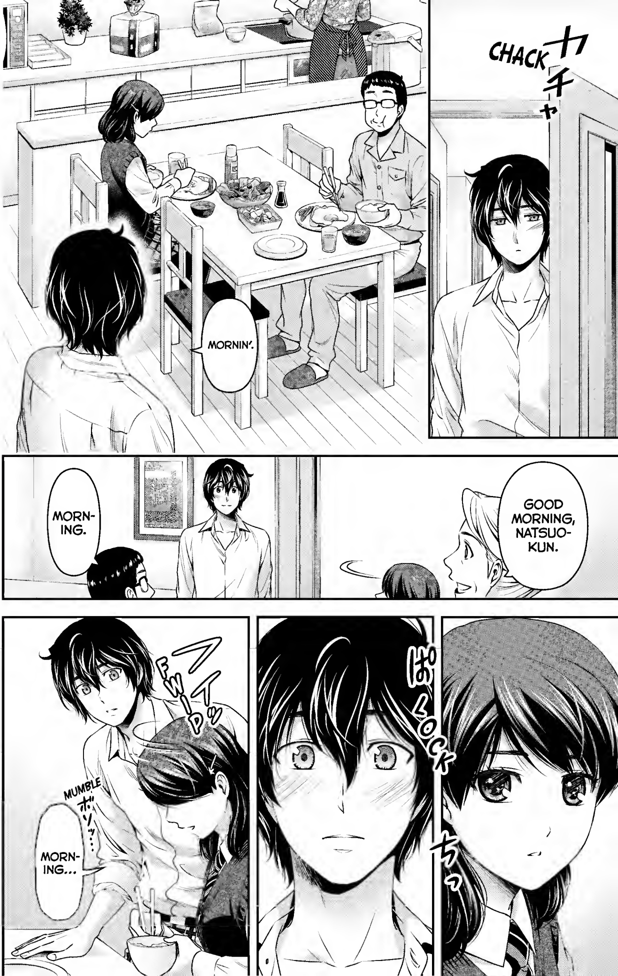

...I JUST CAN'T...
...LET GO OF MY FEELINGS.
I KNOW I'M JUST BEING STUPID,
BUT,
EVEN NOW, AN OFF-HANDED COMMENT FROM HIM CAN MAKE ME ANYTHING FROM ELATED TO DEPRESSED.
I'M SURE THAT IF WE WENT OUT,
YOU'D TREAT ME NICELY AND MAKE ME HAPPY.
BUT I JUST CAN'T...
BRING MYSELF TO GIVE UP.
SO,
I'M SORRY...
HUH...?
THEN...
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT?

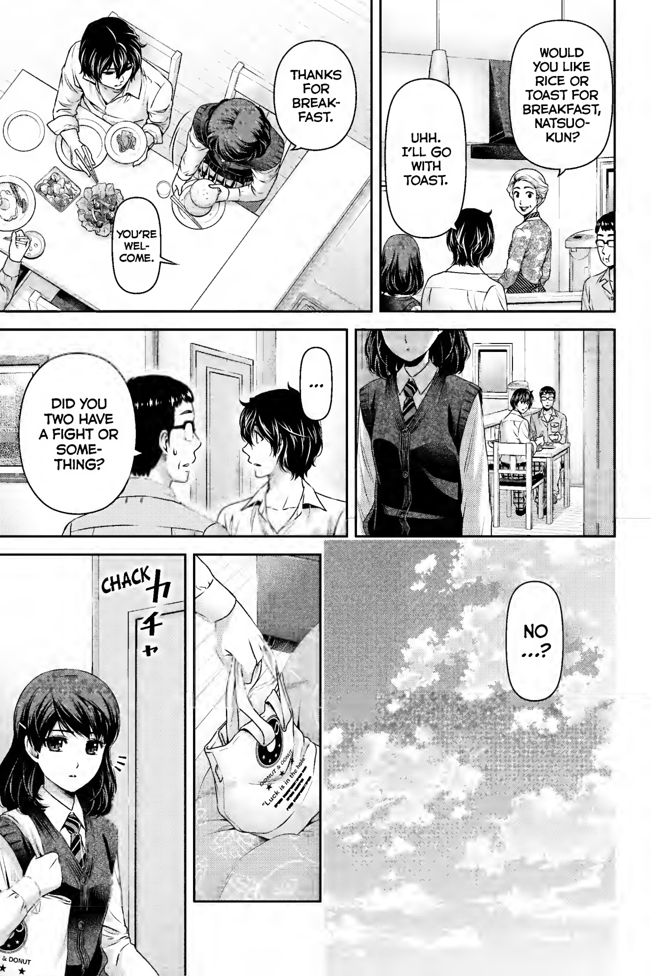

I'M SAYING I'M SO GLAD THAT...
...I DIDN'T LET GO OF MY FEELINGS FOR YOU!

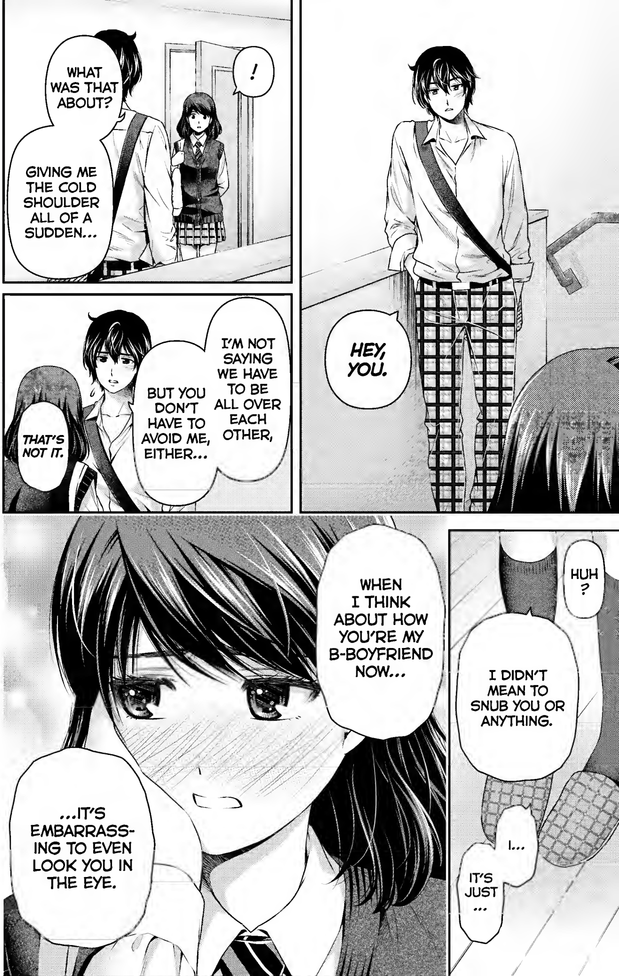

I MADE YOU CRY AGAIN,
HUH?
IT'S OKAY.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME.

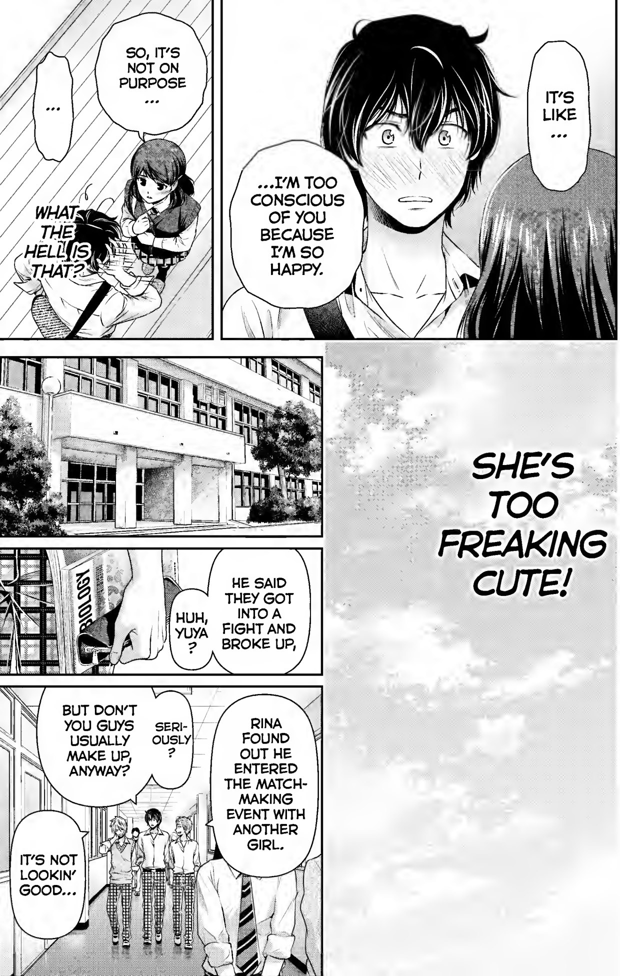
CHAPTER 116:
CHANGING RELATIONSHIP

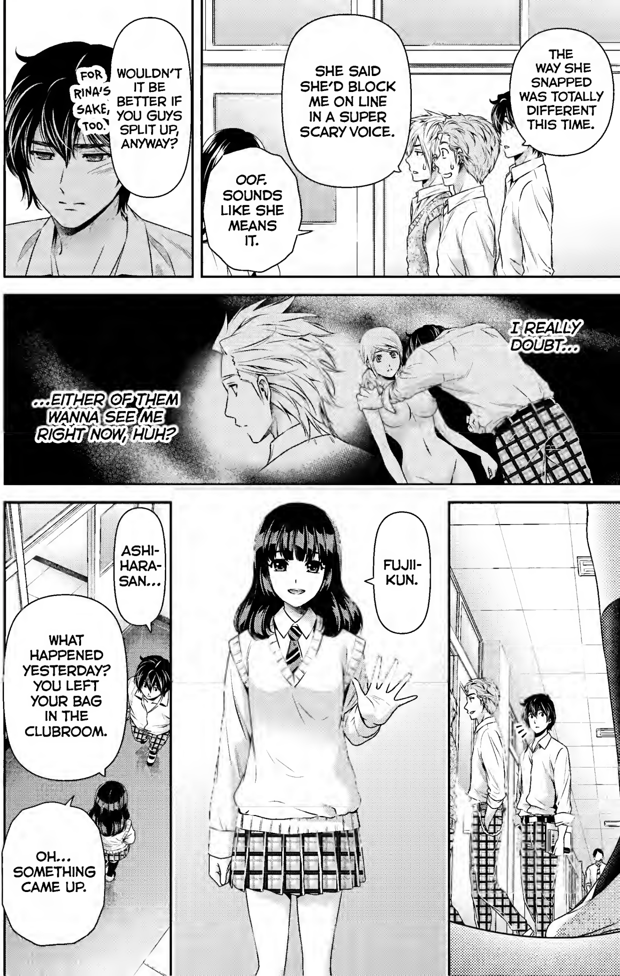

ピピピピッ BEEP BEEP
ピピピピッ BEEP BEEP
ピピッ… BEEP
HNN …
I FINALLY...
...TOLD HER...
...HOW I FEEL.

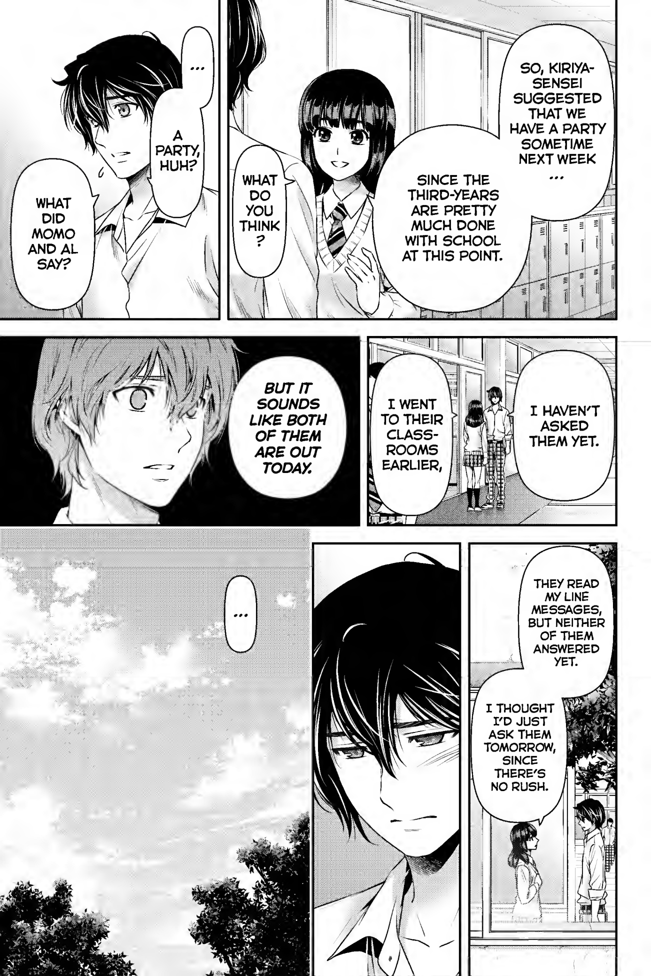

CHACK カチャ
MORNIN'.
GOOD MORNING, NATSUO-KUN.
MORN-ING.
ちゅ
ぱLOCK
フイッ FWIP
MUMBLE ボソッ…
MORN-ING...

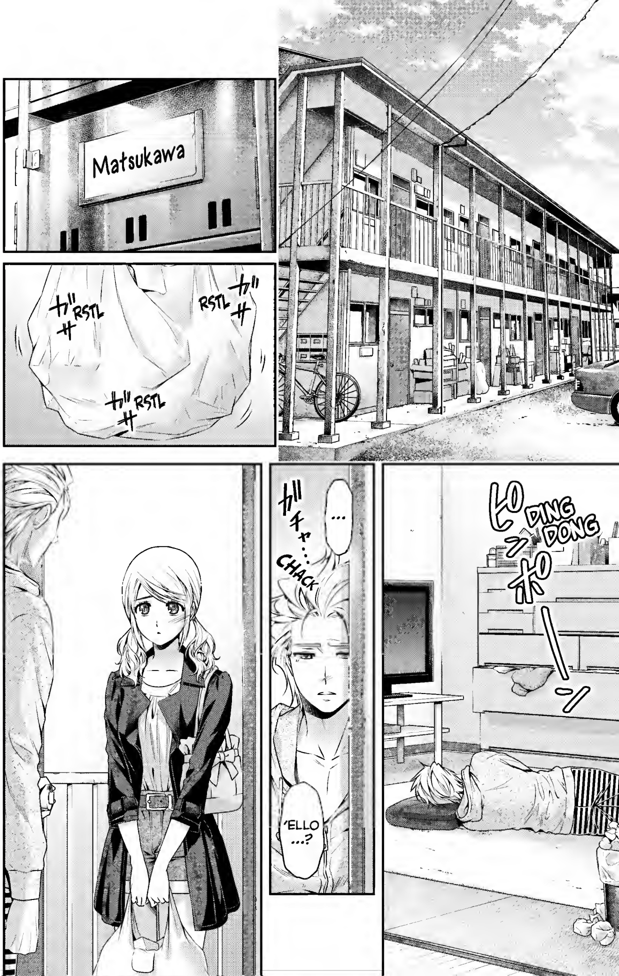

WOULD YOU LIKE RICE OR TOAST FOR BREAKFAST, NATSUO-KUN?
UHH. I'LL GO WITH TOAST.
THANKS FOR BREAKFAST.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
DID YOU TWO HAVE A FIGHT OR SOMETHING?
...
NO ...?
DONUT & DONUT
"Luck is in the hole"
CHACK カチャ
& DONUT

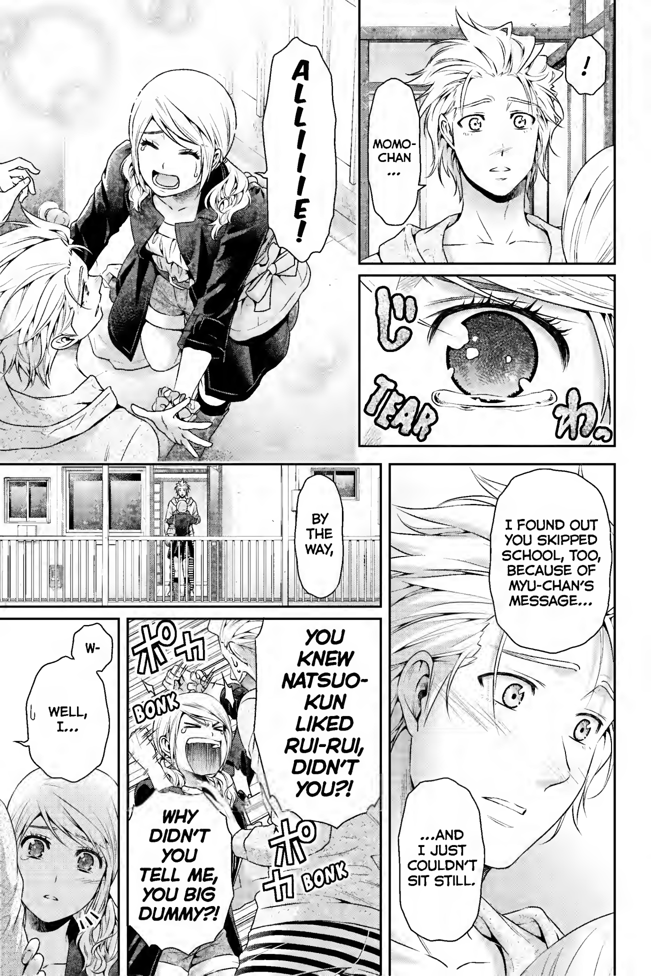

HEY, YOU.
!
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
GIVING ME THE COLD SHOULDER ALL OF A SUDDEN...
I'M NOT SAYING WE HAVE TO BE ALL OVER EACH OTHER,
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO AVOID ME, EITHER...
THAT'S NOT IT.
HUH?
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SNUB YOU OR ANYTHING.
I...
IT'S JUST...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW YOU'RE MY B-BOYFRIEND NOW...
...IT'S EMBARRASSING TO EVEN LOOK YOU IN THE EYE.

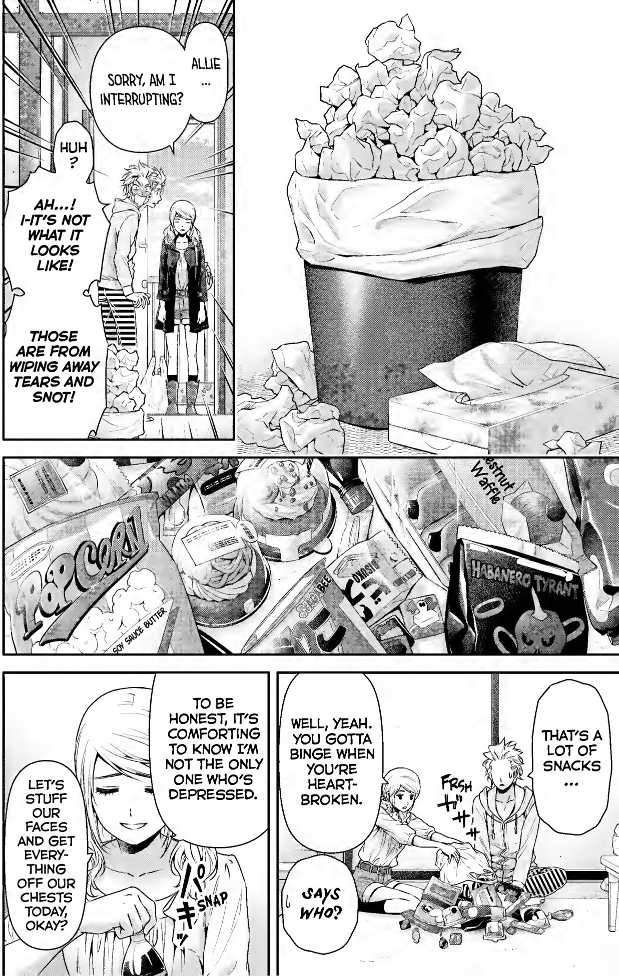

IT'S LIKE ...
...I'M TOO CONSCIOUS OF YOU BECAUSE I'M SO HAPPY.
SO, IT'S NOT ON PURPOSE ...
...
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
SHE'S TOO FREAKING CUTE!
BIOLOGY
HE SAID THEY GOT INTO A FIGHT AND BROKE UP,
HUH, YUYA ?
RINA FOUND OUT HE ENTERED THE MATCH-MAKING EVENT WITH ANOTHER GIRL.
SERIOUSLY ?
BUT DON'T YOU GUYS USUALLY MAKE UP, ANYWAY?
IT'S NOT LOOKIN' GOOD...

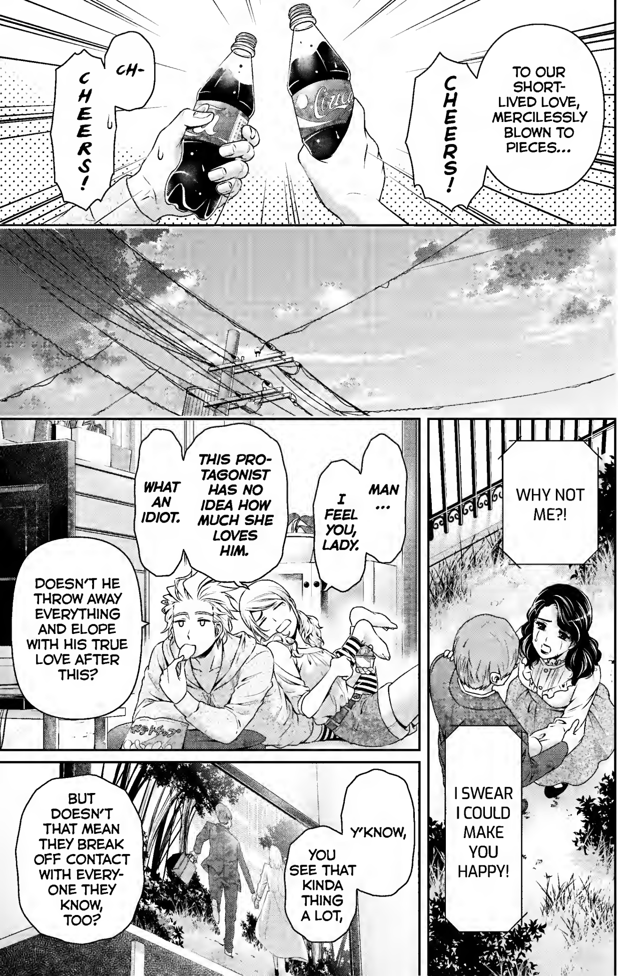

THE WAY SHE SNAPPED WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
SHE SAID SHE'D BLOCK ME ON LINE IN A SUPER SCARY VOICE.
OOF. SOUNDS LIKE SHE MEANS IT.
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF YOU GUYS SPLIT UP, ANYWAY?
FOR RINA'S SAKE, TOO.
I REALLY DOUBT...
...EITHER OF THEM WANNA SEE ME RIGHT NOW, HUH?
FUJII-KUN.
ASHIHARA-SAN...
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY? YOU LEFT YOUR BAG IN THE CLUBROOM.
OH... SOMETHING CAME UP.

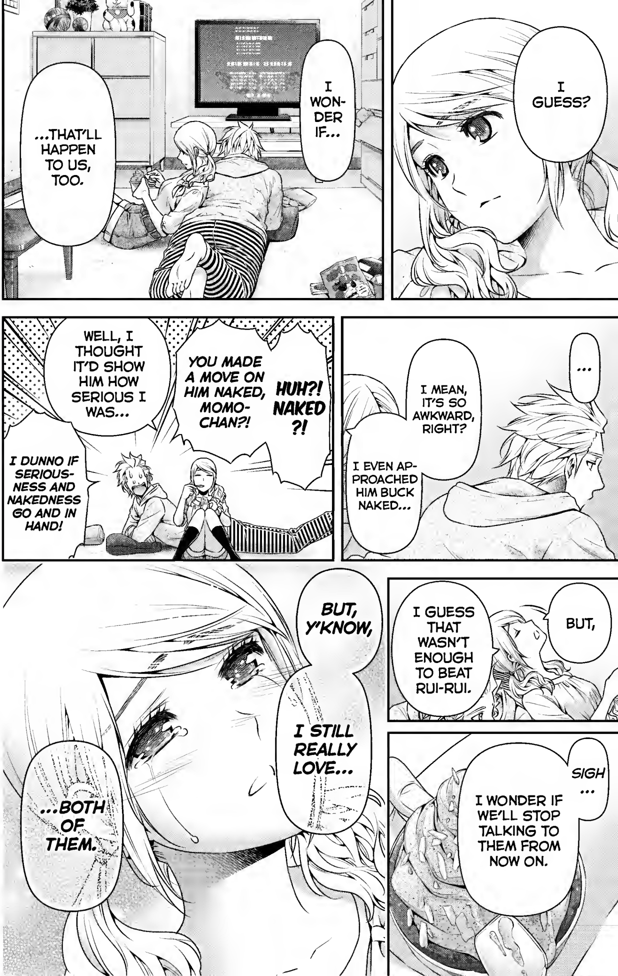

SO, KIRIYA-SENSEI SUGGESTED THAT WE HAVE A PARTY SOMETIME NEXT WEEK ...
SINCE THE THIRD-YEARS ARE PRETTY MUCH DONE WITH SCHOOL AT THIS POINT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
...
A PARTY, HUH?
WHAT DID MOMO AND AL SAY?
I HAVEN'T ASKED THEM YET.
I WENT TO THEIR CLASSROOMS EARLIER,
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE BOTH OF THEM ARE OUT TODAY.
THEY READ MY LINE MESSAGES, BUT NEITHER OF THEM ANSWERED YET.
I THOUGHT I'D JUST ASK THEM TOMORROW, SINCE THERE'S NO RUSH.
...

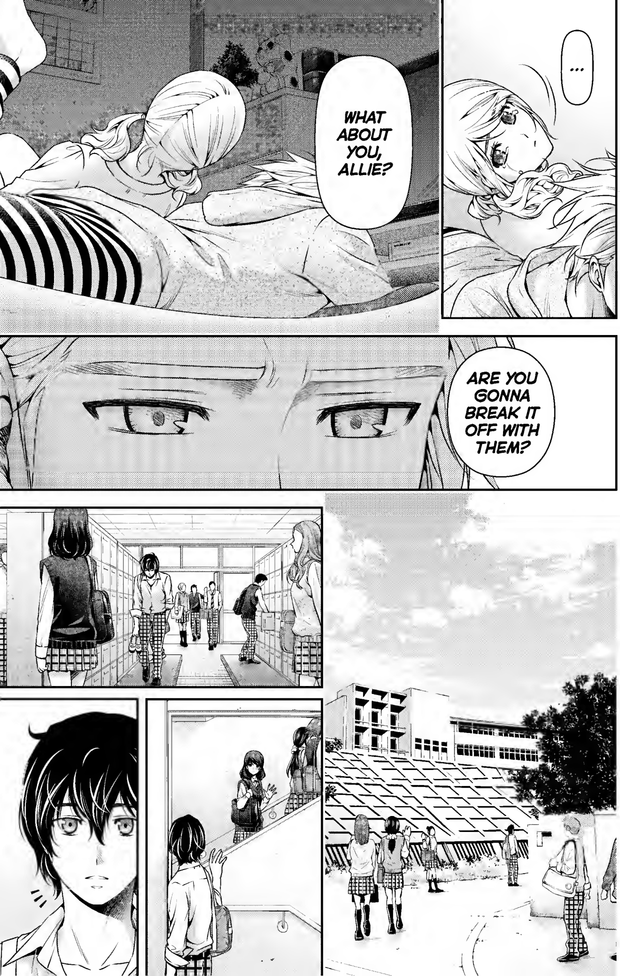

Matsukawa
ガ RSTL サ
RSTL ガ サ
ガ RSTL サ
ピンポーン DING DONG
...
ガチャ... CHACK
'ELLO ...?

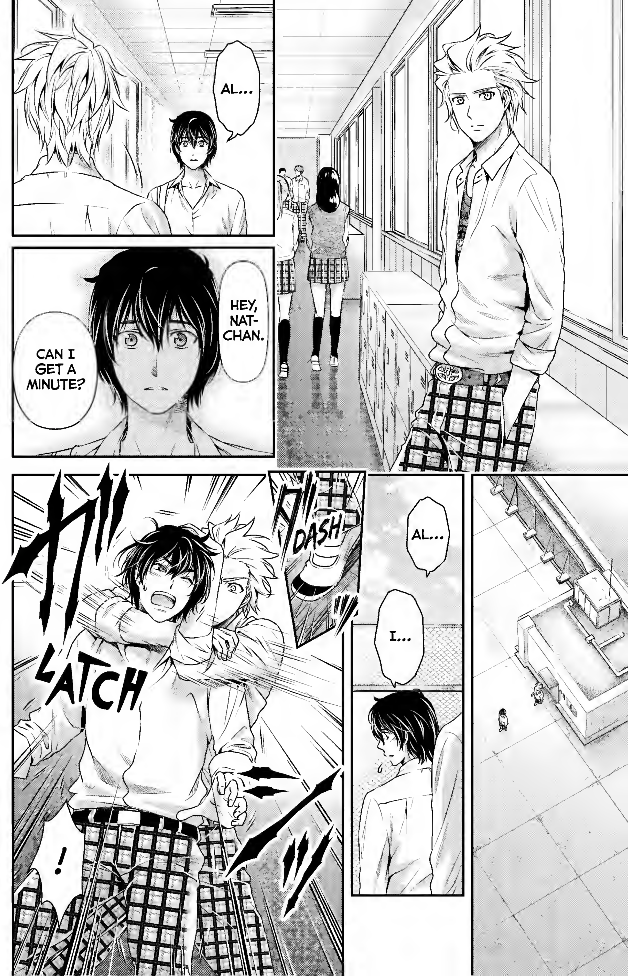

!
MOMO-CHAN...
じ
TEAR
わ。
ALLIIIE!
I FOUND OUT YOU SKIPPED SCHOOL, TOO, BECAUSE OF MYU-CHAN'S MESSAGE...
...AND I JUST COULDN'T SIT STILL.
BY THE WAY,
ポカ
BONK
YOU KNEW NATSUO-KUN LIKED RUI-RUI, DIDN'T YOU?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME, YOU BIG DUMMY?!
ポカ
BONK
W-
WELL, I...

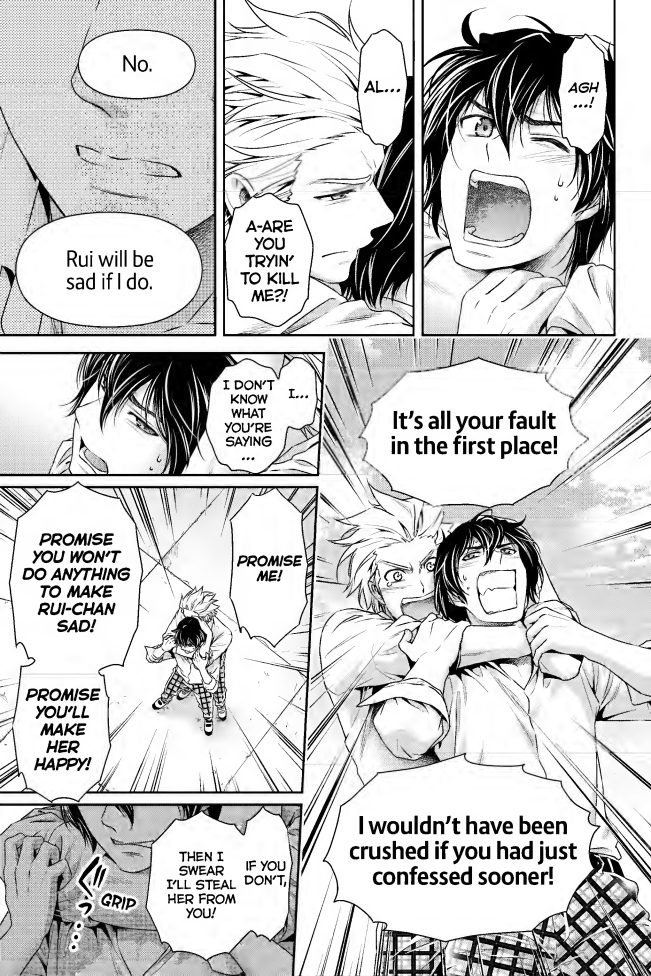

ALLIE ...
SORRY, AM I INTERRUPTING?
HUH ?
AH...! I-IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!
THOSE ARE FROM WIPING AWAY TEARS AND SNOT!
estnut Waffle
HABANERO TYRANT
POPCORN
SOY SAUCE BUTTER
THAT'S A LOT OF SNACKS ...
FRSH
WELL, YEAH. YOU GOTTA BINGE WHEN YOU'RE HEART-BROKEN.
SAYS WHO?
TO BE HONEST, IT'S COMFORTING TO KNOW I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S DEPRESSED.
LET'S STUFF OUR FACES AND GET EVERYTHING OFF OUR CHESTS TODAY, OKAY?
SNAP

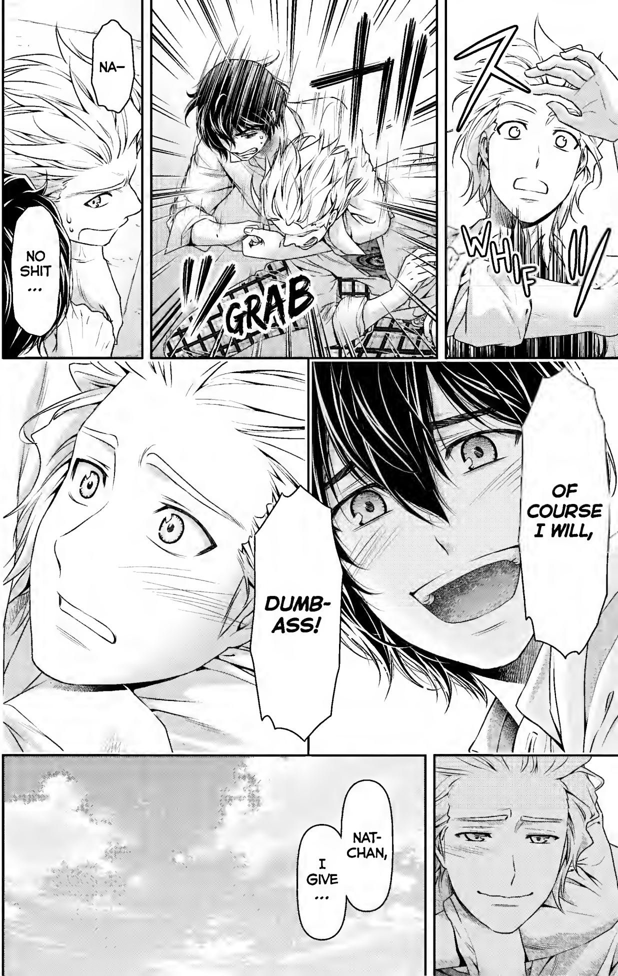

TO OUR SHORT-LIVED LOVE, MERCILESSLY BLOWN TO PIECES...
CHEERS!
CH-CHEERS!
WHY NOT ME?!
MAN... I FEEL YOU, LADY.
THIS PROTAGONIST HAS NO IDEA HOW MUCH SHE LOVES HIM.
WHAT AN IDIOT.
DOESN'T HE THROW AWAY EVERYTHING AND ELOPE WITH HIS TRUE LOVE AFTER THIS?
I SWEAR I COULD MAKE YOU HAPPY!
Y'KNOW,
YOU SEE THAT KINDA THING A LOT,
BUT DOESN'T THAT MEAN THEY BREAK OFF CONTACT WITH EVERYONE THEY KNOW, TOO?


I GUESS?
I WONDER IF...
...THAT'LL HAPPEN TO US, TOO.
...
I MEAN, IT'S SO AWKWARD, RIGHT?
I EVEN APPROACHED HIM BUCK NAKED...
HUH?! NAKED?!
YOU MADE A MOVE ON HIM NAKED, MOMO-CHAN?!
WELL, I THOUGHT IT'D SHOW HIM HOW SERIOUS I WAS...
I DUNNO IF SERIOUSNESS AND NAKEDNESS GO AND IN HAND!
BUT,
I GUESS THAT WASN'T ENOUGH TO BEAT RUI-RUI.
SIGH...
I WONDER IF WE'LL STOP TALKING TO THEM FROM NOW ON.
BUT, Y'KNOW,
I STILL REALLY LOVE...
...BOTH OF THEM.

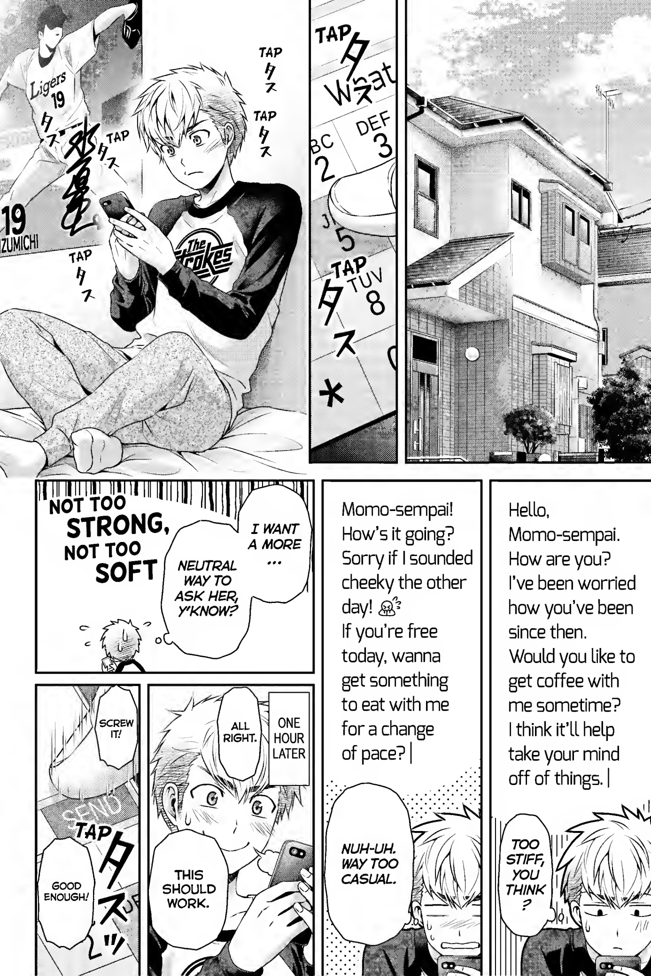

WHAT ABOUT YOU, ALLIE?
...
ARE YOU GONNA BREAK IT OFF WITH THEM?


AL...
HEY, NAT-CHAN.
CAN I GET A MINUTE?
AL...
I...
DASH
LATCH
!


AGH ...!
AL...
A-ARE YOU TRYIN' TO KILL ME?!
No.
Rui will be sad if I do.
It's all your fault in the first place!
I wouldn't have been crushed if you had just confessed sooner!
I...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ...
PROMISE ME!
PROMISE YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING TO MAKE RUI-CHAN SAD!
PROMISE YOU'LL MAKE HER HAPPY!
IF YOU DON'T,
THEN I SWEAR I'LL STEAL HER FROM YOU!
GRIP


ス
WHIF
ガッ
GRAB
NA–
NO SHIT ...
OF COURSE I WILL,
DUMB-ASS!
NAT-CHAN,
I GIVE ...

CHAPTER 117: AND THEN

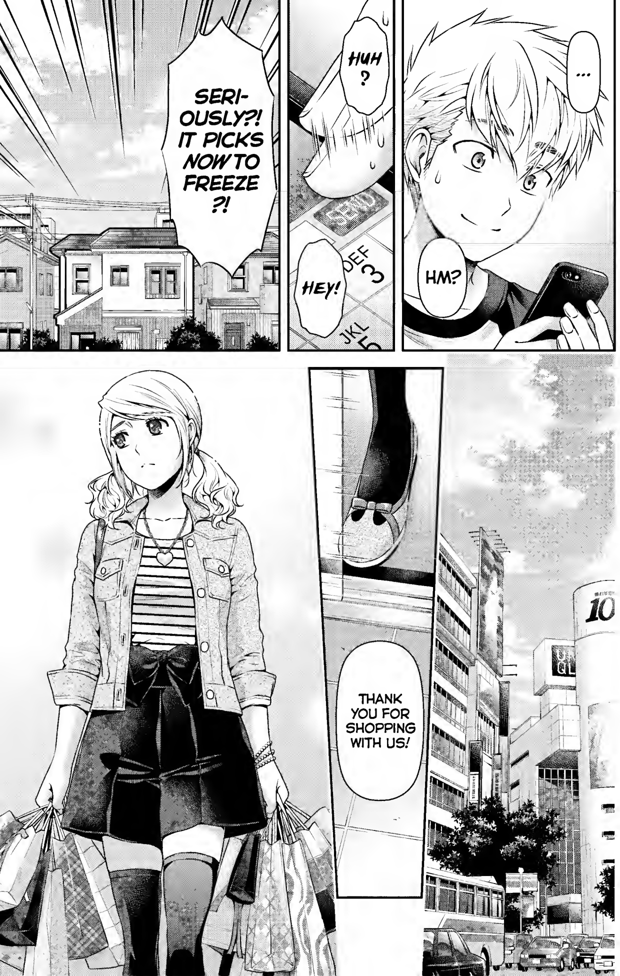

TAP
タ
Wrat
BC
2
DEF
3
J
5
TAP
TUV
8
タス
*
TAP
タス
TAP
タス
TAP
タス
TAP
タス
Ligers
19
19
IZUMICHI
The Strokes

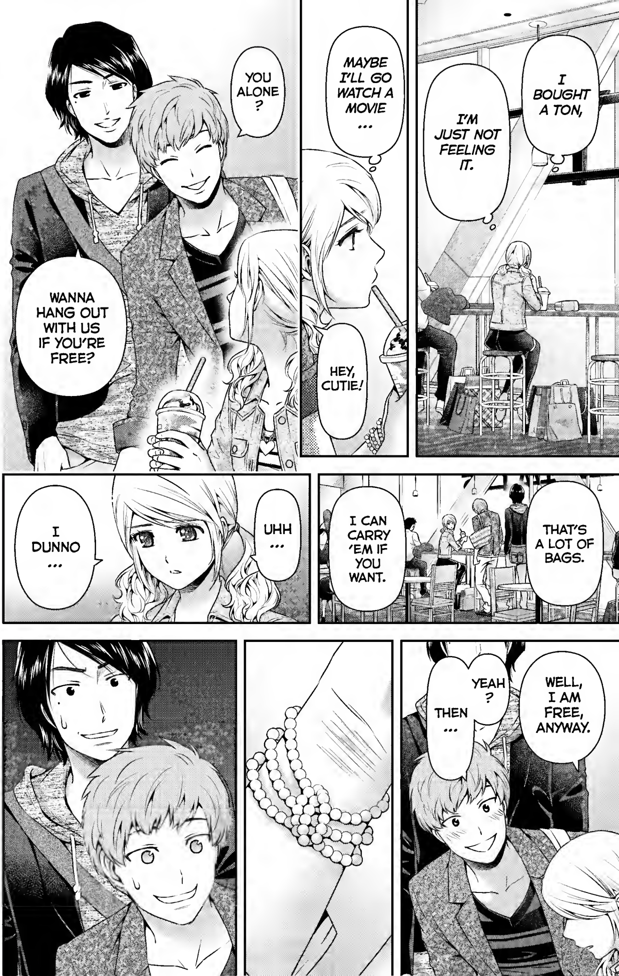
Hello,
Momo-sempai.
How are you?
I've been worried
how you've been
since then.
Would you like to
get coffee with
me sometime?
I think it'll help
take your mind
off of things. |

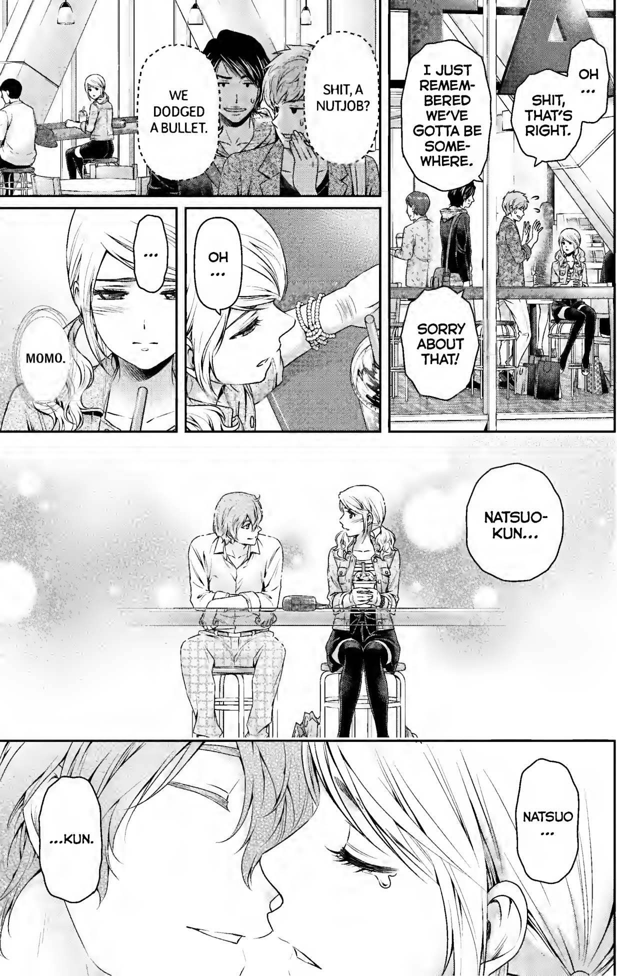
TOO STIFF, YOU THINK?

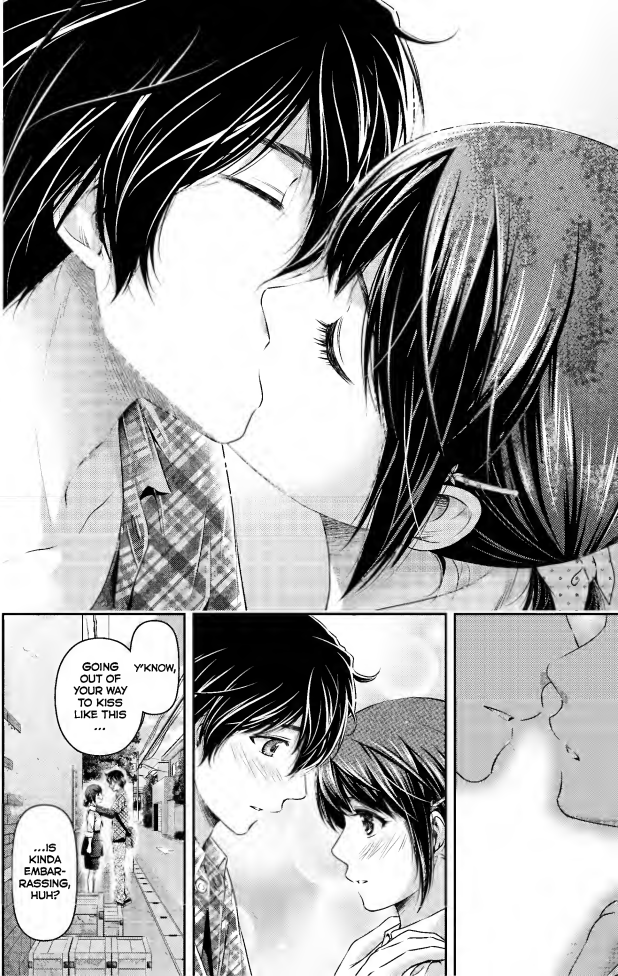
Momo-sempai!
How's it going?
Sorry if I sounded
cheeky the other
day!
If you're free
today, wanna
get something
to eat with me
for a change
of pace? |

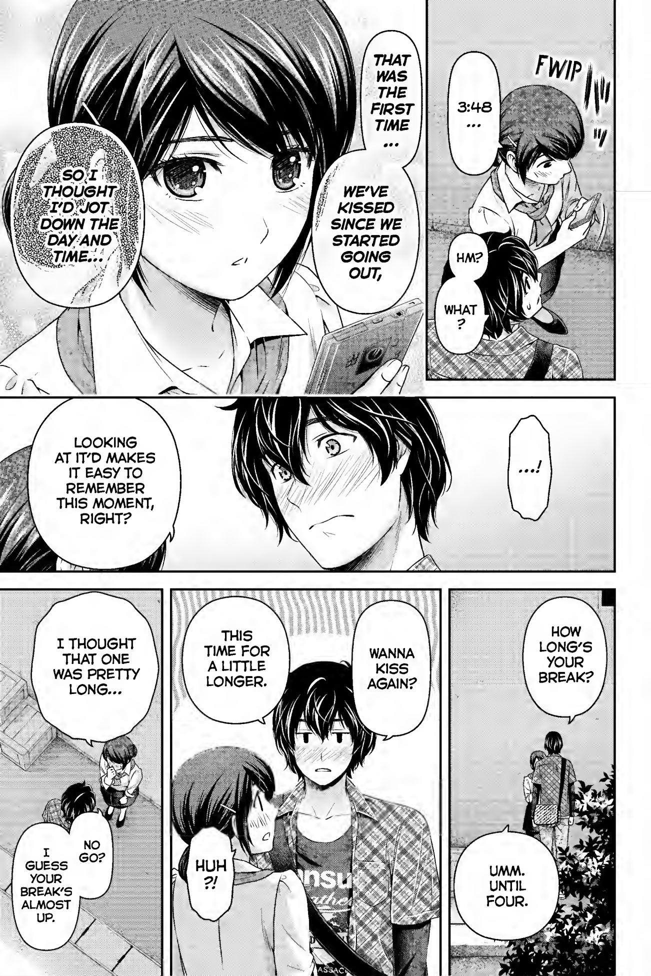
NUH-UH. WAY TOO CASUAL.
I WANT A MORE ...
NEUTRAL WAY TO ASK HER, Y'KNOW?
NOT TOO STRONG, NOT TOO SOFT
ONE HOUR LATER
ALL RIGHT.
THIS SHOULD WORK.
SCREW IT!
SEND
TAP
タス
GOOD ENOUGH!

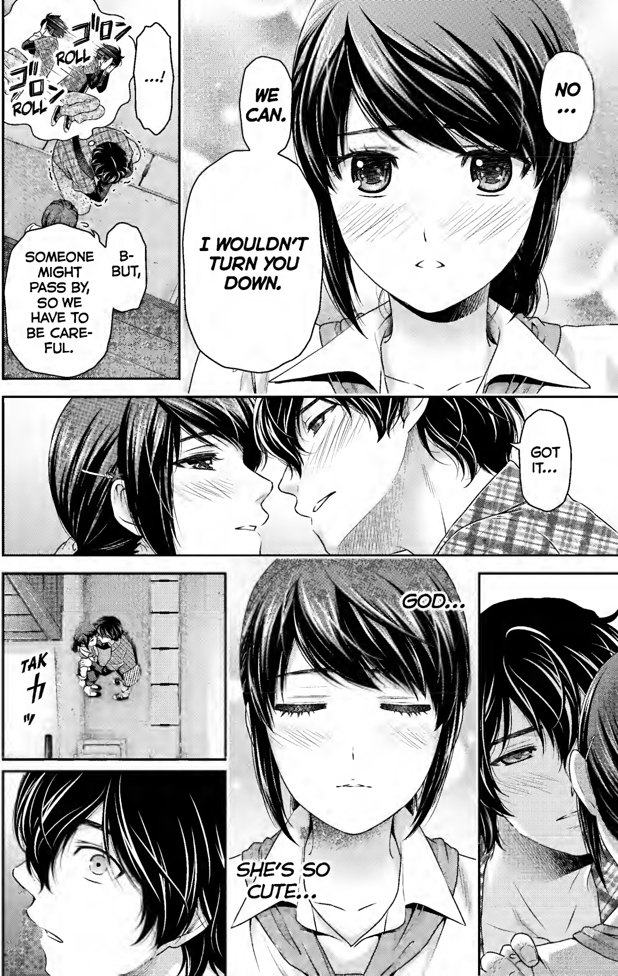

...
HM?
HUH ?
HEY!
SEND
DEF 3
JKL 5
SERIOUSLY?! IT PICKS NOW TO FREEZE ?!
10
UNI QL
THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING WITH US!

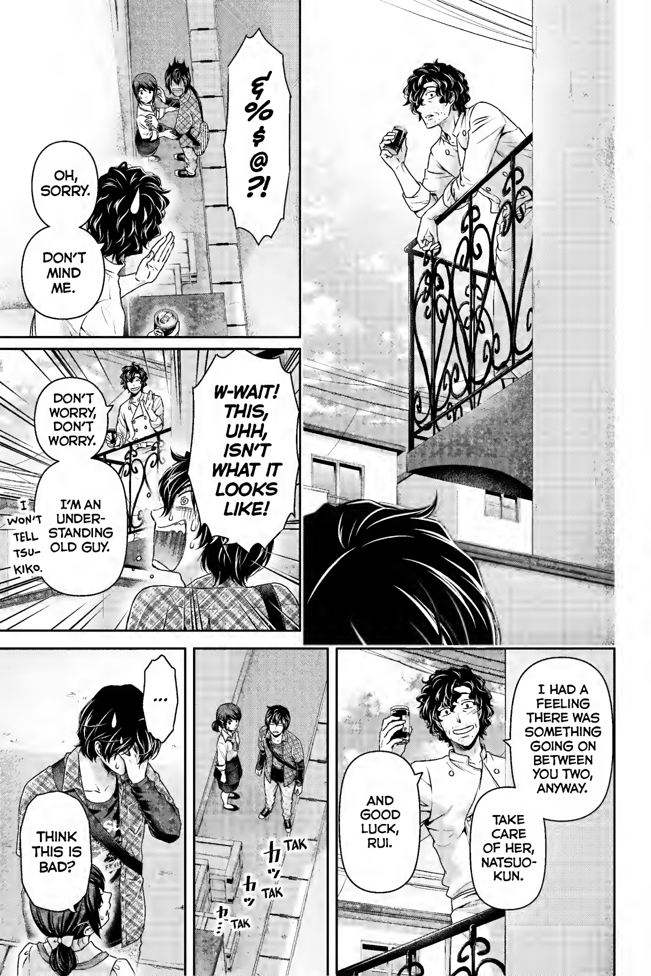

I BOUGHT A TON,
I'M JUST NOT FEELING IT.
MAYBE I'LL GO WATCH A MOVIE ...
HEY, CUTIE!
YOU ALONE ?
WANNA HANG OUT WITH US IF YOU'RE FREE?
THAT'S A LOT OF BAGS.
I CAN CARRY 'EM IF YOU WANT.
UHH ...
I DUNNO ...
WELL, I AM FREE, ANYWAY.
YEAH ?
THEN ...

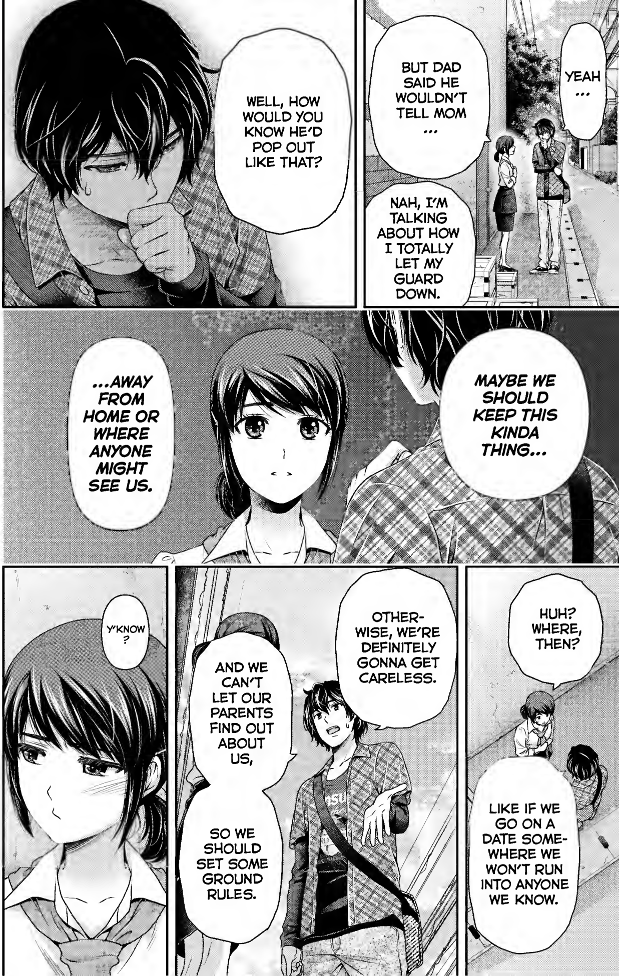

OH ...
SHIT, THAT'S RIGHT.
I JUST REMEMBERED WE'VE GOTTA BE SOMEWHERE.
SORRY ABOUT THAT!
SHIT, A NUTJOB?
WE DODGED A BULLET.
OH ...
...
MOMO.
NATSUO-KUN...
NATSUO ...
...KUN.

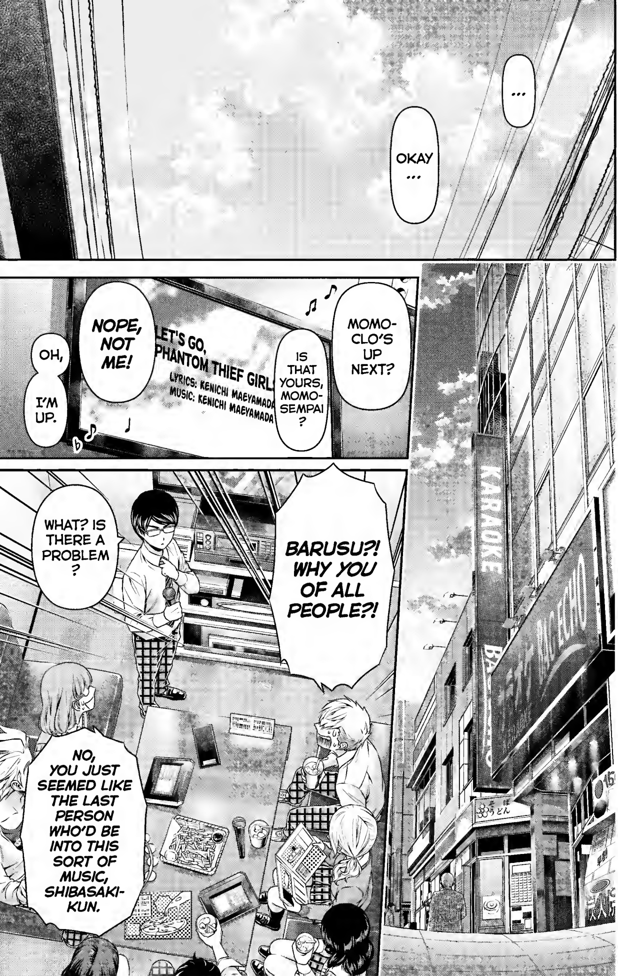

Y'KNOW,
GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO KISS LIKE THIS ...
...IS KINDA EMBARRASSING, HUH?

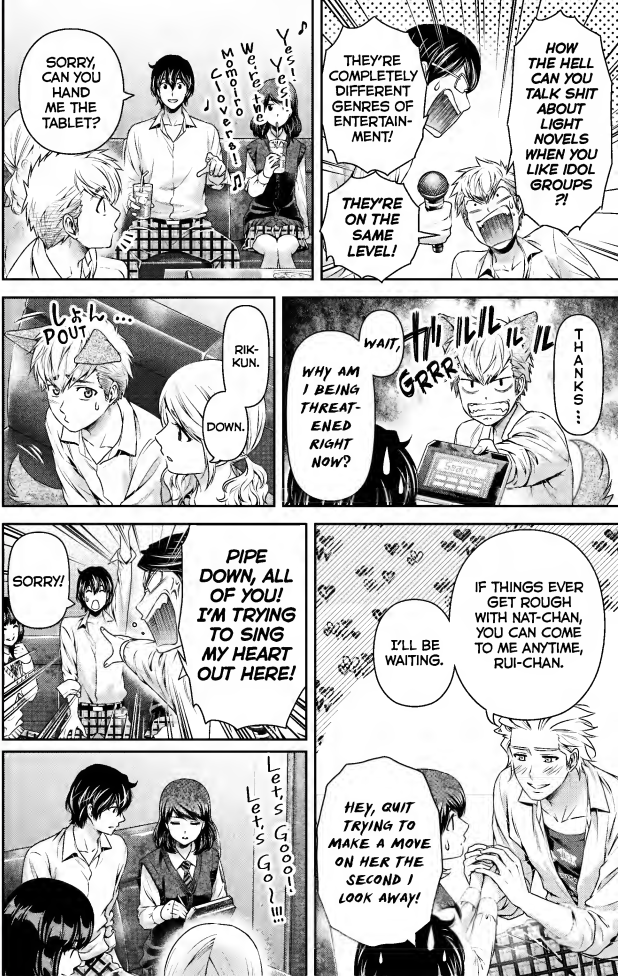

FWIP
3:48 ...
HM?
WHAT ?
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME ...
WE'VE KISSED SINCE WE STARTED GOING OUT,
SO I THOUGHT I'D JOT DOWN THE DAY AND TIME...
...!
LOOKING AT IT'D MAKES IT EASY TO REMEMBER THIS MOMENT, RIGHT?
HOW LONG'S YOUR BREAK?
UMM. UNTIL FOUR.
WANNA KISS AGAIN?
THIS TIME FOR A LITTLE LONGER.
HUH ?!
I THOUGHT THAT ONE WAS PRETTY LONG...
NO GO?
I GUESS YOUR BREAK'S ALMOST UP.

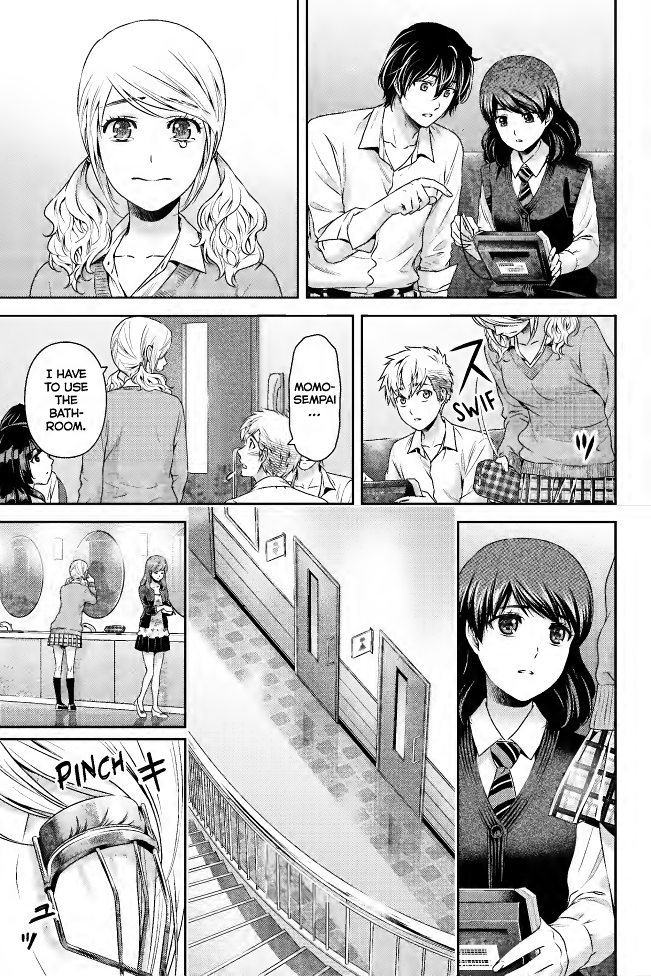

NO...
WE CAN.
I WOULDN'T TURN YOU DOWN.
...!
ゴロン
ROLL
ゴロン
ROLL
B-BUT,
SOMEONE MIGHT PASS BY, SO WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.
GOT IT...
GOD...
SHE'S SO CUTE...
TAK
カッ

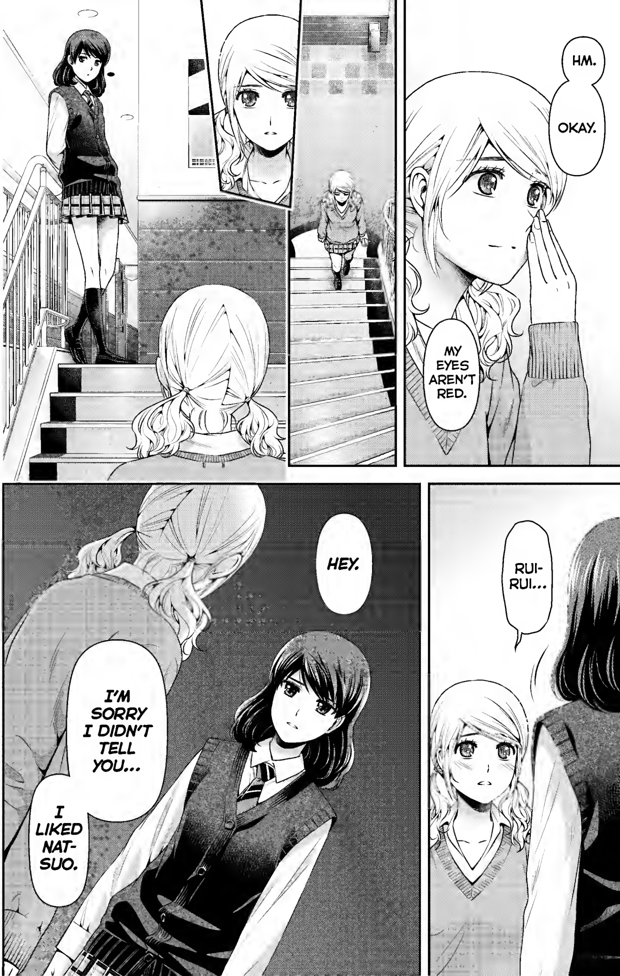

&%$@?!
OH, SORRY.
DON'T MIND ME.
W-WAIT! THIS, UHH, ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY.
I'M AN UNDERSTANDING OLD GUY.
I WON'T TELL TSUKIKO.
I HAD A FEELING THERE WAS SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN YOU TWO, ANYWAY.
TAKE CARE OF HER, NATSUO-KUN.
AND GOOD LUCK, RUI.
カッ TAK
カッ TAK
カ… TAK
...
THINK THIS IS BAD?

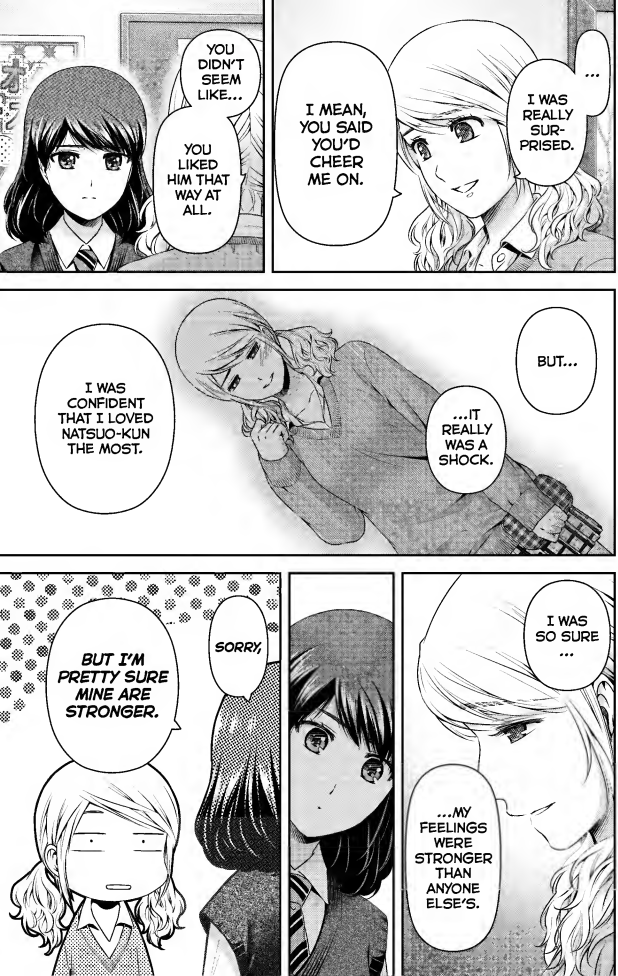

YEAH ...
BUT DAD SAID HE WOULDN'T TELL MOM ...
NAH, I'M TALKING ABOUT HOW I TOTALLY LET MY GUARD DOWN.
WELL, HOW WOULD YOU KNOW HE'D POP OUT LIKE THAT?
MAYBE WE SHOULD KEEP THIS KINDA THING...
...AWAY FROM HOME OR WHERE ANYONE MIGHT SEE US.
HUH? WHERE, THEN?
LIKE IF WE GO ON A DATE SOMEWHERE WE WON'T RUN INTO ANYONE WE KNOW.
OTHERWISE, WE'RE DEFINITELY GONNA GET CARELESS.
AND WE CAN'T LET OUR PARENTS FIND OUT ABOUT US,
SO WE SHOULD SET SOME GROUND RULES.
Y'KNOW ?

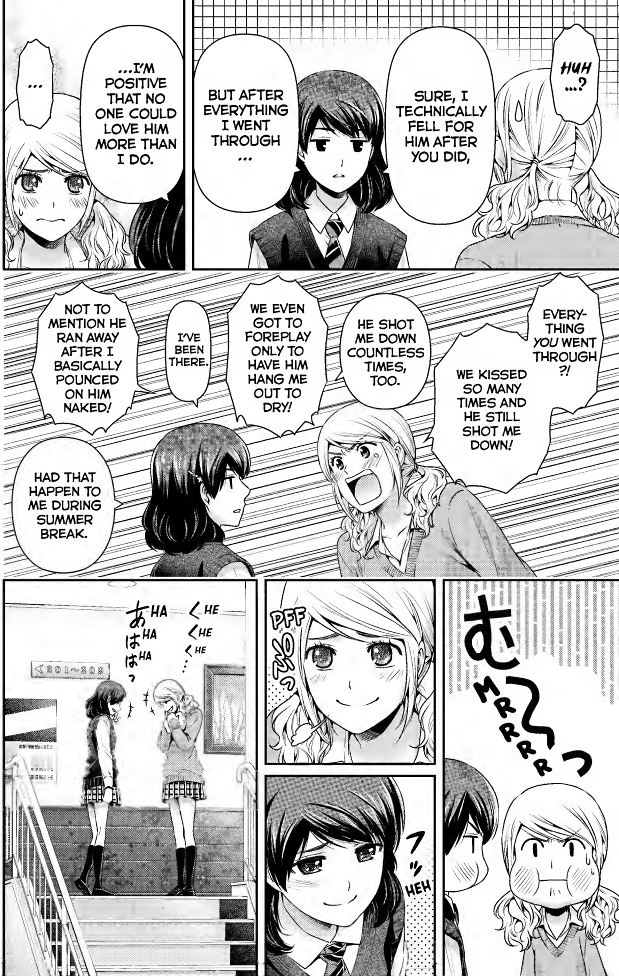

...
OKAY ...
KARAOKE
BIG ECHO
そば うどん
MOMO-CLO'S UP NEXT?
IS THAT YOURS, MOMO-SEMPAI?
NOPE, NOT ME!
LET'S GO, PHANTOM THIEF GIRLS
LYRICS: KENICHI MAEYAMADA
MUSIC: KENICHI MAEYAMADA
OH,
I'M UP.
BARUSU?! WHY YOU OF ALL PEOPLE?!
WHAT? IS THERE A PROBLEM?
NO, YOU JUST SEEMED LIKE THE LAST PERSON WHO'D BE INTO THIS SORT OF MUSIC, SHIBASAKI-KUN.

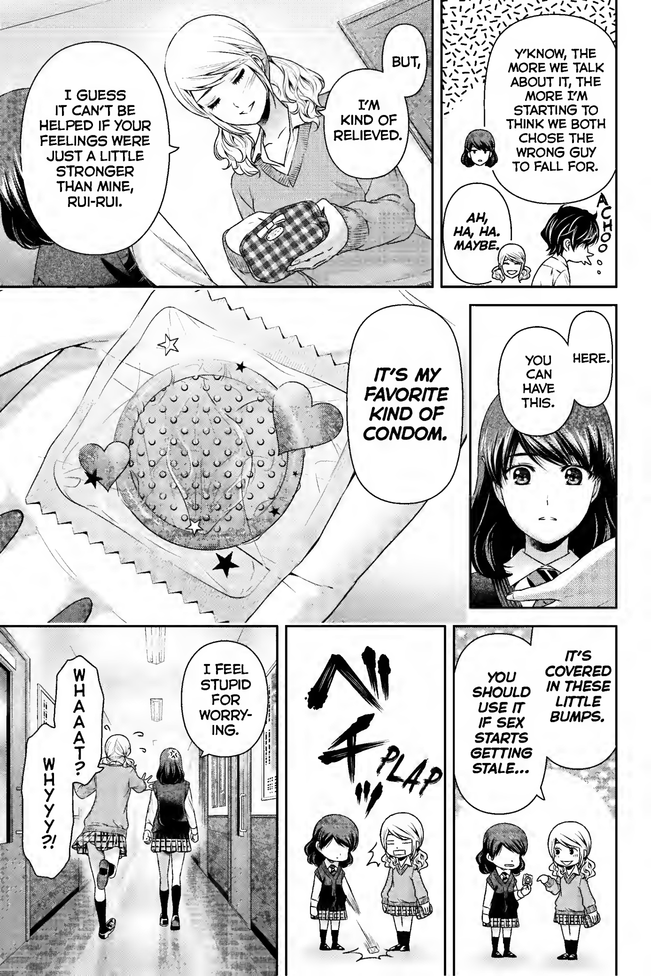

HOW THE HELL CAN YOU TALK SHIT ABOUT LIGHT NOVELS WHEN YOU LIKE IDOL GROUPS?!
THEY'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT GENRES OF ENTERTAINMENT!
THEY'RE ON THE SAME LEVEL!
Yes! Yes! We're the Momoiro Clovers! ♪
SORRY, CAN YOU HAND ME THE TABLET?
THANKS...
ガルルルル
GRRR
WAIT, WHY AM I BEING THREATENED RIGHT NOW?
Search
RIK-KUN.
DOWN.
しょん…
POUT
IF THINGS EVER GET ROUGH WITH NAT-CHAN, YOU CAN COME TO ME ANYTIME, RUI-CHAN.
I'LL BE WAITING.
HEY, QUIT TRYING TO MAKE A MOVE ON HER THE SECOND I LOOK AWAY!
PIPE DOWN, ALL OF YOU! I'M TRYING TO SING MY HEART OUT HERE!
SORRY!
Let's Gooo! Let's Go~!!!

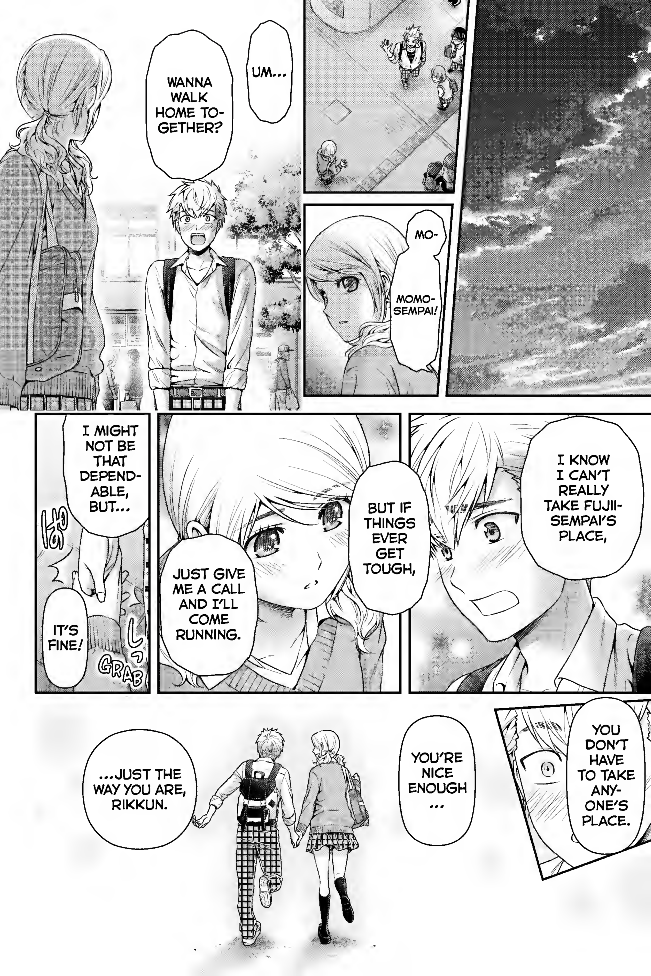

ス
SWIF
ツ
MOMO-SEMPAI ...
I HAVE TO USE THE BATH-ROOM.
PINCH キ
ユッ


HM.
OKAY.
MY EYES AREN'T RED.
RUI-RUI...
HEY.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU...
I LIKED NATSUO.

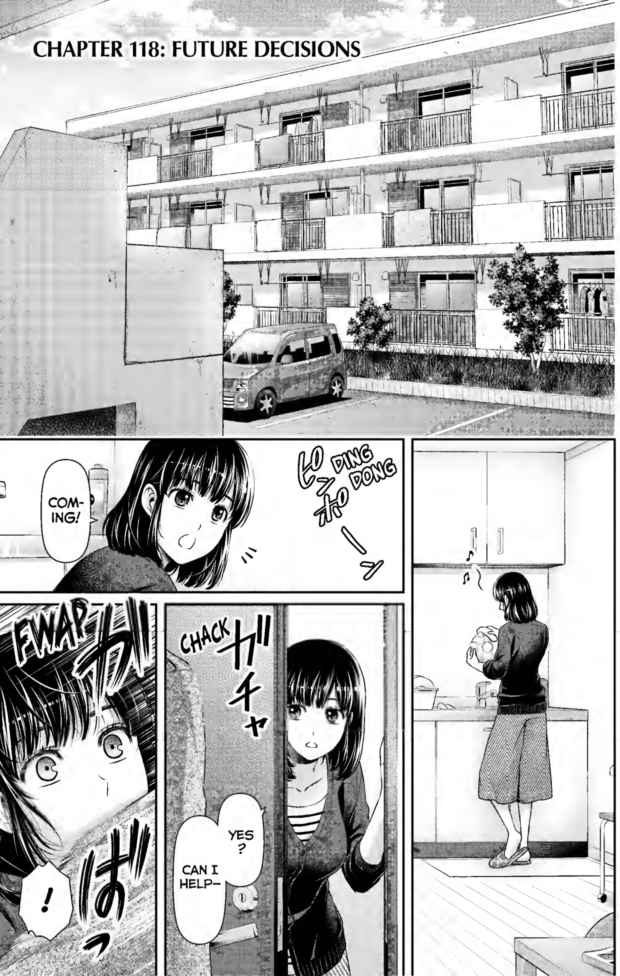

...
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED.
I MEAN, YOU SAID YOU'D CHEER ME ON.
YOU DIDN'T SEEM LIKE...
YOU LIKED HIM THAT WAY AT ALL.
BUT...
...IT REALLY WAS A SHOCK.
I WAS CONFIDENT THAT I LOVED NATSUO-KUN THE MOST.
I WAS SO SURE ...
...MY FEELINGS WERE STRONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE'S.
SORRY,
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE MINE ARE STRONGER.

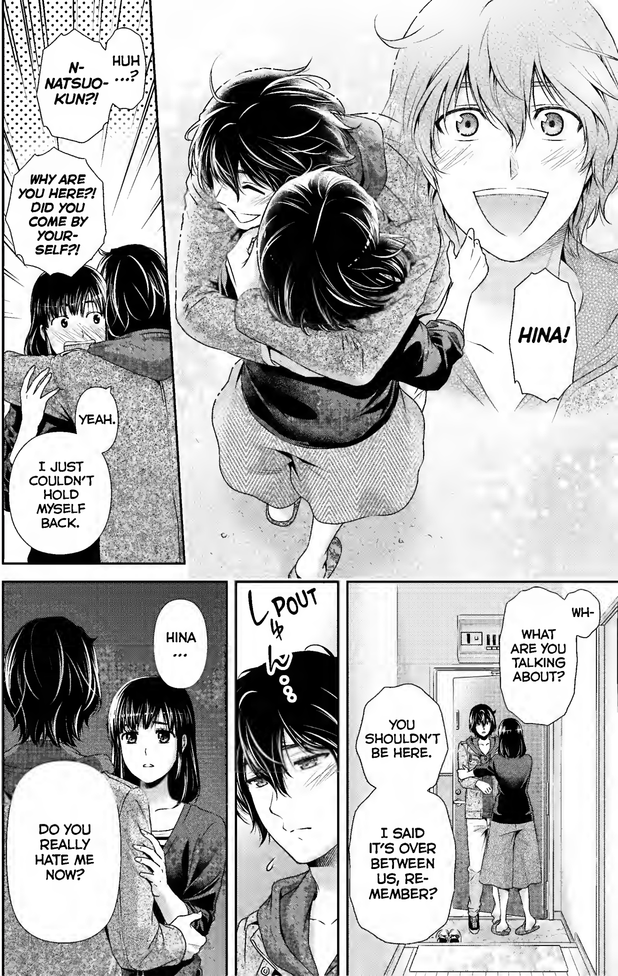

HUH ...?
SURE, I TECHNICALLY FELL FOR HIM AFTER YOU DID,
BUT AFTER EVERYTHING I WENT THROUGH ...
...I'M POSITIVE THAT NO ONE COULD LOVE HIM MORE THAN I DO.
...
EVERYTHING *YOU* WENT THROUGH?!
WE KISSED SO MANY TIMES AND HE STILL SHOT ME DOWN!
HE SHOT ME DOWN COUNTLESS TIMES, TOO.
WE EVEN GOT TO FOREPLAY ONLY TO HAVE HIM HANG ME OUT TO DRY!
I'VE BEEN THERE.
NOT TO MENTION HE RAN AWAY AFTER I BASICALLY POUNCED ON HIM NAKED!
HAD THAT HAPPEN TO ME DURING SUMMER BREAK.
む〜っ MRRRRR
ぷっ PFF
フッ HEH
くくく… HE HE HE
あははっ HA HA HA
<201~209

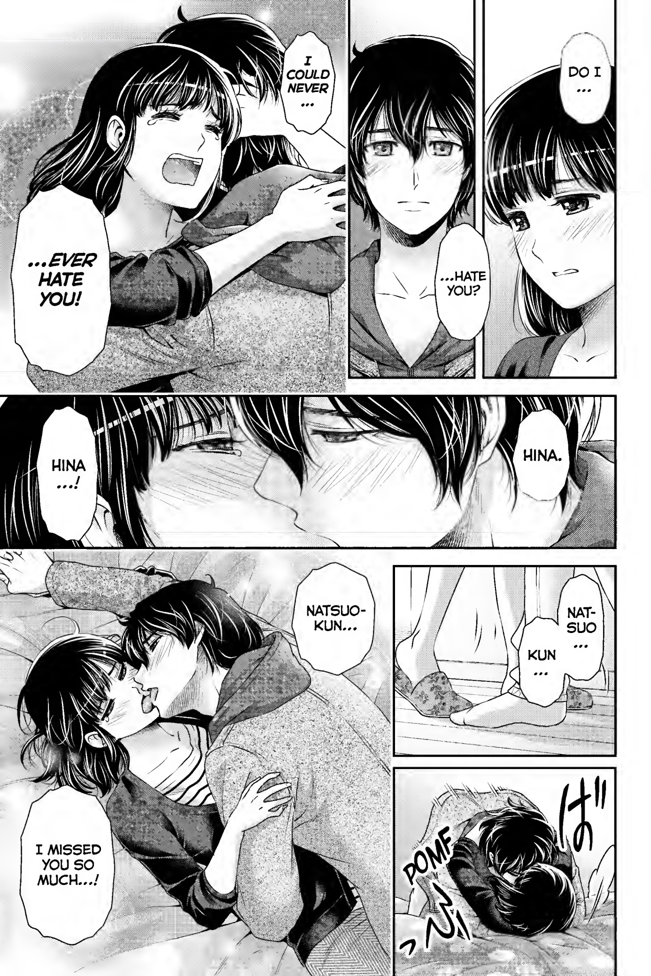

Y'KNOW, THE MORE WE TALK ABOUT IT, THE MORE I'M STARTING TO THINK WE BOTH CHOSE THE WRONG GUY TO FALL FOR.
AH, HA, HA. MAYBE.
ACHOO
BUT,
I'M KIND OF RELIEVED.
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF YOUR FEELINGS WERE JUST A LITTLE STRONGER THAN MINE, RUI-RUI.
HERE.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
IT'S MY FAVORITE KIND OF CONDOM.
IT'S COVERED IN THESE LITTLE BUMPS.
YOU SHOULD USE IT IF SEX STARTS GETTING STALE...
ペイ
PLAP
I FEEL STUPID FOR WORRYING.
WHAAAT?
WHYYYY?!

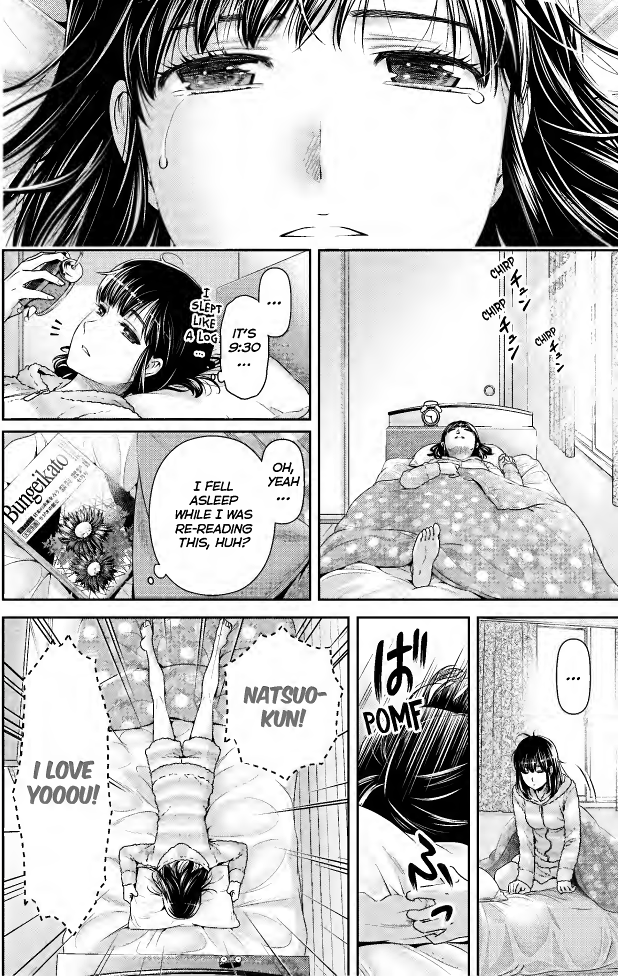

MO-
MOMO-SEMPAI!
UM...
WANNA WALK HOME TOGETHER?
I KNOW I CAN'T REALLY TAKE FUJII-SEMPAI'S PLACE,
BUT IF THINGS EVER GET TOUGH,
JUST GIVE ME A CALL AND I'LL COME RUNNING.
I MIGHT NOT BE THAT DEPENDABLE, BUT...
GRAB
IT'S FINE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ANYONE'S PLACE.
YOU'RE NICE ENOUGH...
...JUST THE WAY YOU ARE, RIKKUN.

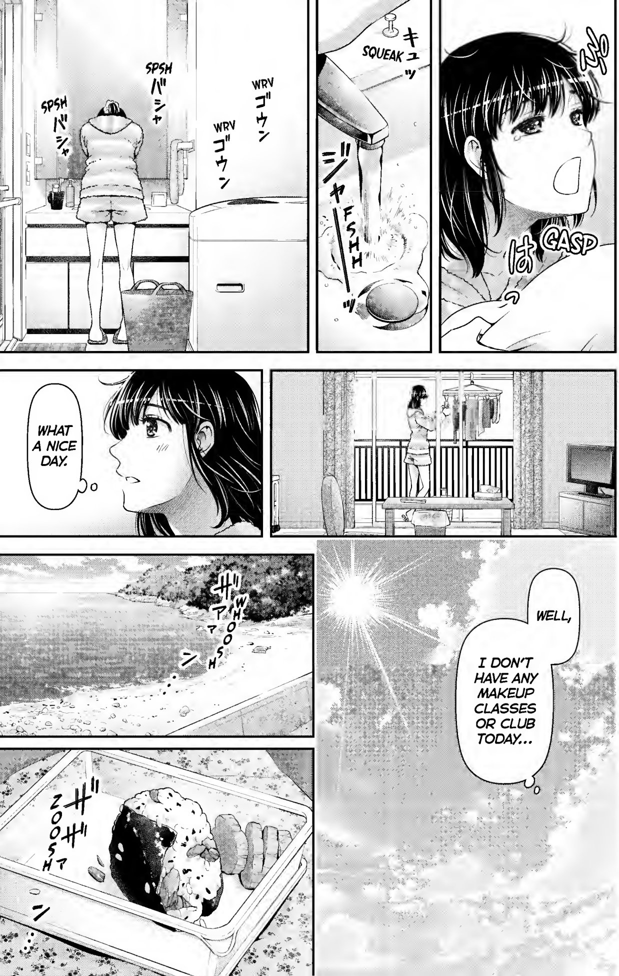
CHAPTER 118: FUTURE DECISIONS

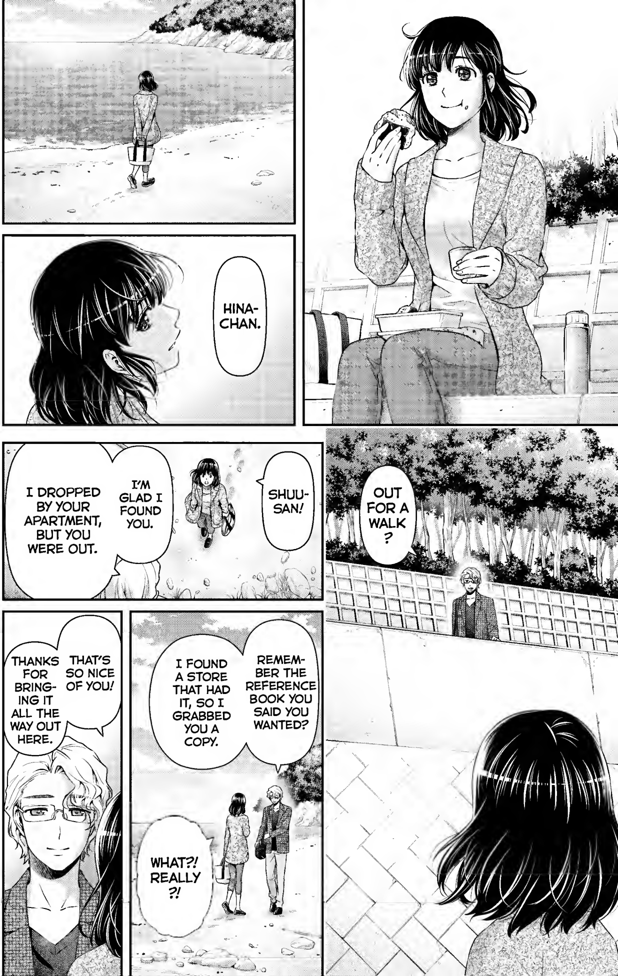

♪
♪
ピンポーン
DING DONG
COMING!
ガチャ
CHACK
YES?
CAN I HELP–
ばっ
FWAP
!

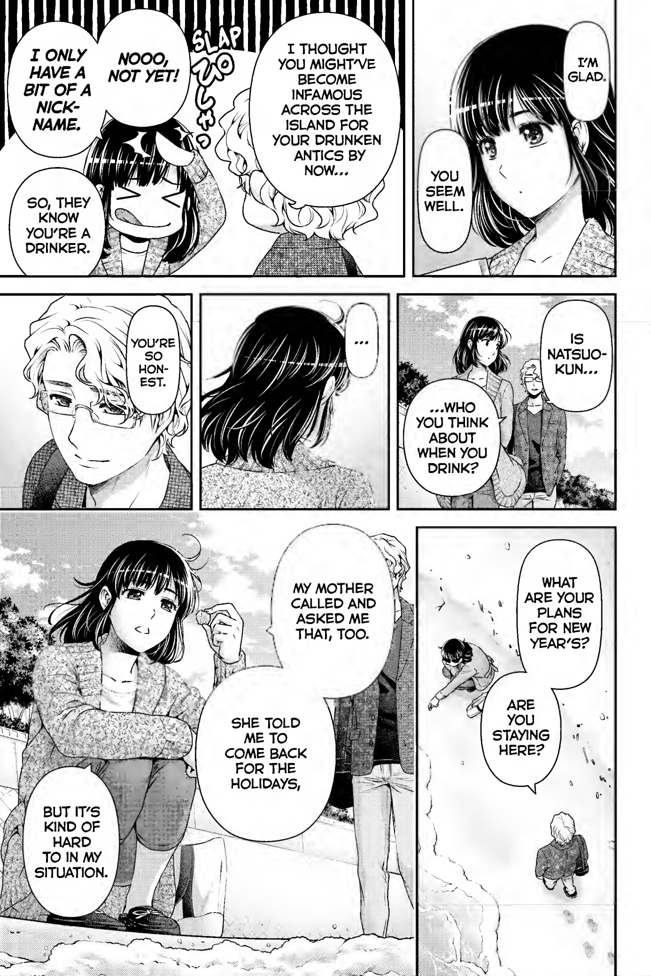

HINA!
HUH ...?
N-NATSUO-KUN?!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?! DID YOU COME BY YOURSELF?!
YEAH.
I JUST COULDN'T HOLD MYSELF BACK.
WH-
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
I SAID IT'S OVER BETWEEN US, REMEMBER?
POUT
しゅん…
HINA ...
DO YOU REALLY HATE ME NOW?

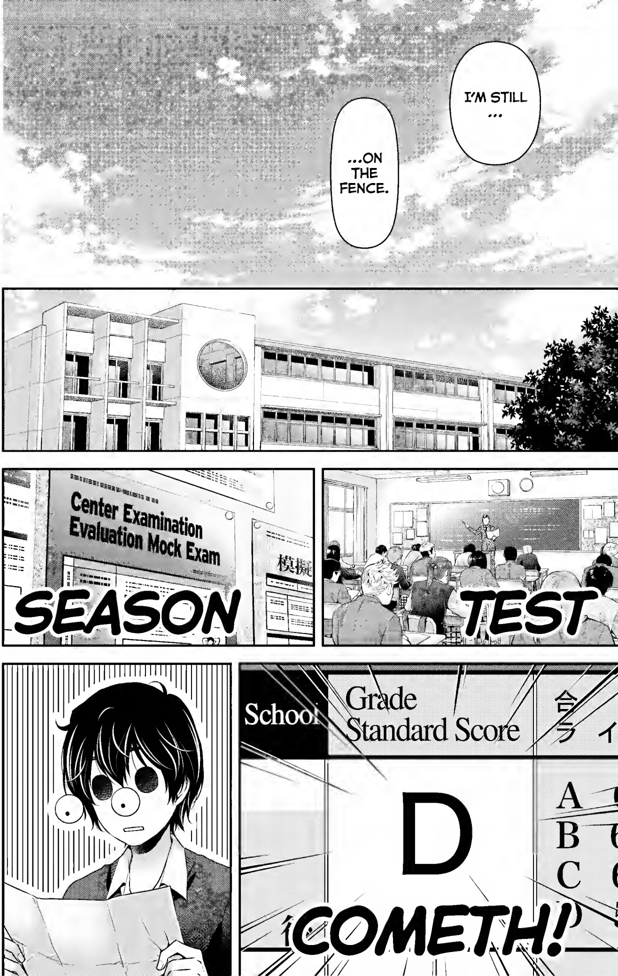

DO I ...
...HATE YOU?
I COULD NEVER ...
...EVER HATE YOU!
HINA.
HINA ...!
NAT-SUO ...
KUN ...
ば
POMF
ぶっ
NATSUO-KUN...
I MISSED YOU SO MUCH...!

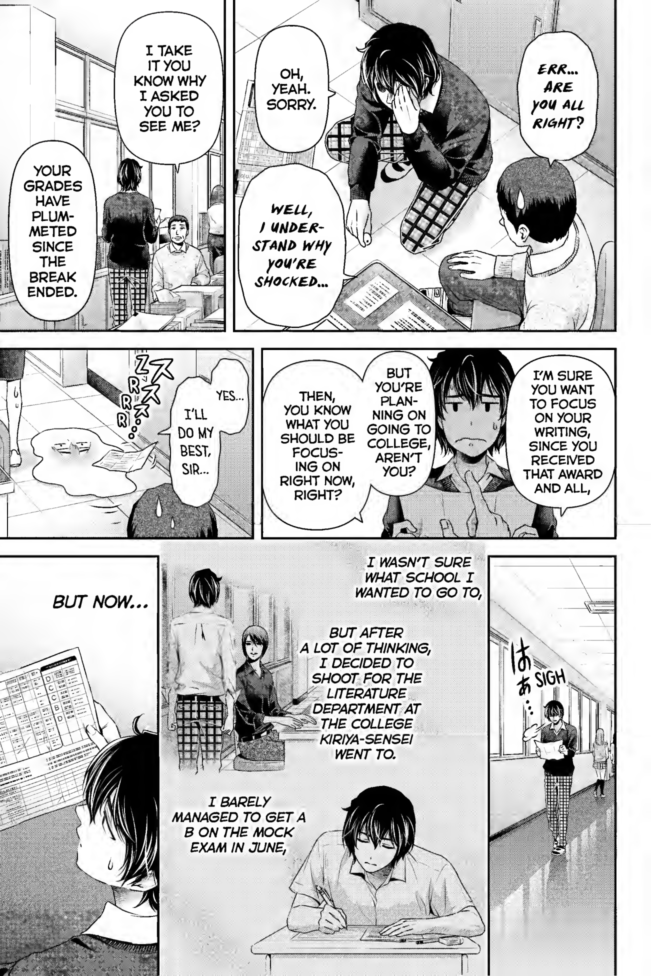

CHIRP チュン
CHIRP チュン
CHIRP チュン
...
IT'S 9:30 ...
I SLEPT LIKE A LOG ...
OH, YEAH ...
I FELL ASLEEP WHILE I WAS RE-READING THIS, HUH?
Bungeikato
...
ばっ POMF
ふっ
NATSUO-KUN!
I LOVE YOOOU!

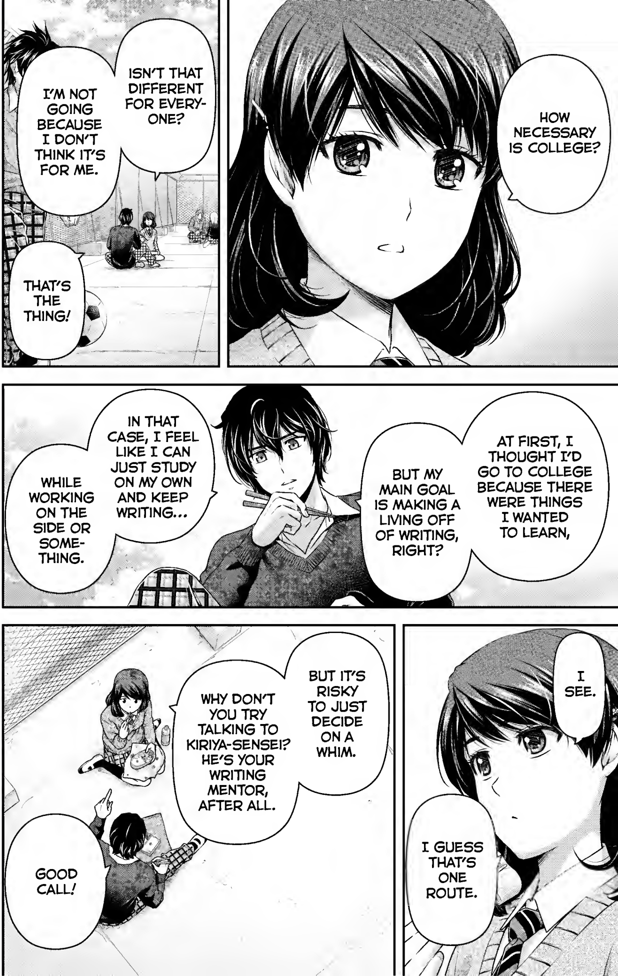

ぷ
は GASP っ
キュッ SQUEAK
ジャーッ FSHH
WRV ゴウン
WRV ゴウン
SPSH バシャ
SPSH バシャ
WHAT A NICE DAY.
WELL,
I DON'T HAVE ANY MAKEUP CLASSES OR CLUB TODAY...
ザァァン… WHOOSH
ザザァン… ZOOSH

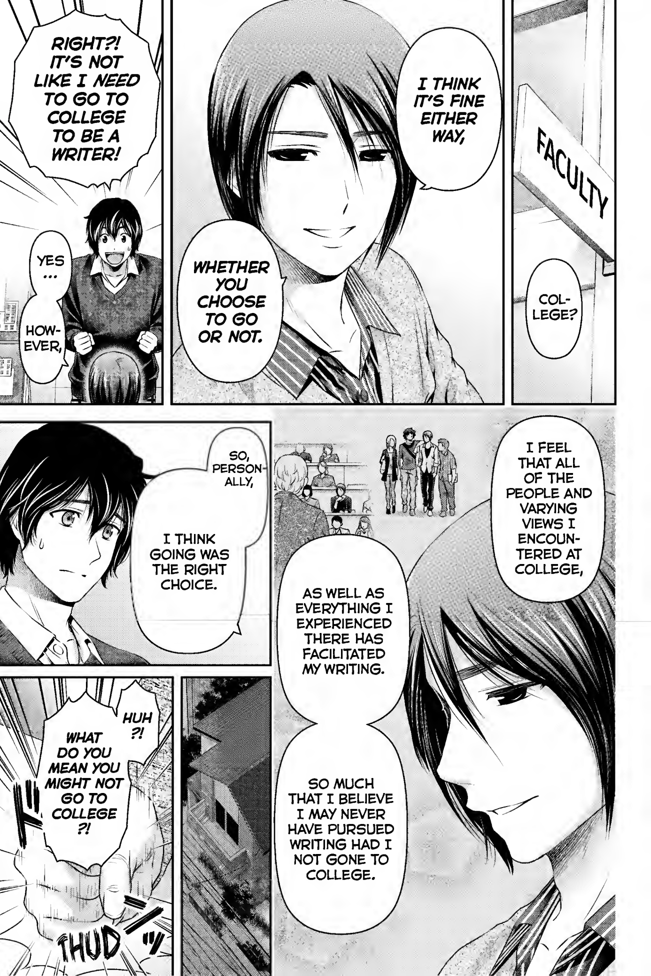

HINA-CHAN.
OUT FOR A WALK?
SHUU-SAN!
I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU.
I DROPPED BY YOUR APARTMENT, BUT YOU WERE OUT.
REMEMBER THE REFERENCE BOOK YOU SAID YOU WANTED?
I FOUND A STORE THAT HAD IT, SO I GRABBED YOU A COPY.
WHAT?! REALLY?!
THAT'S SO NICE OF YOU!
THANKS FOR BRINGING IT ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.

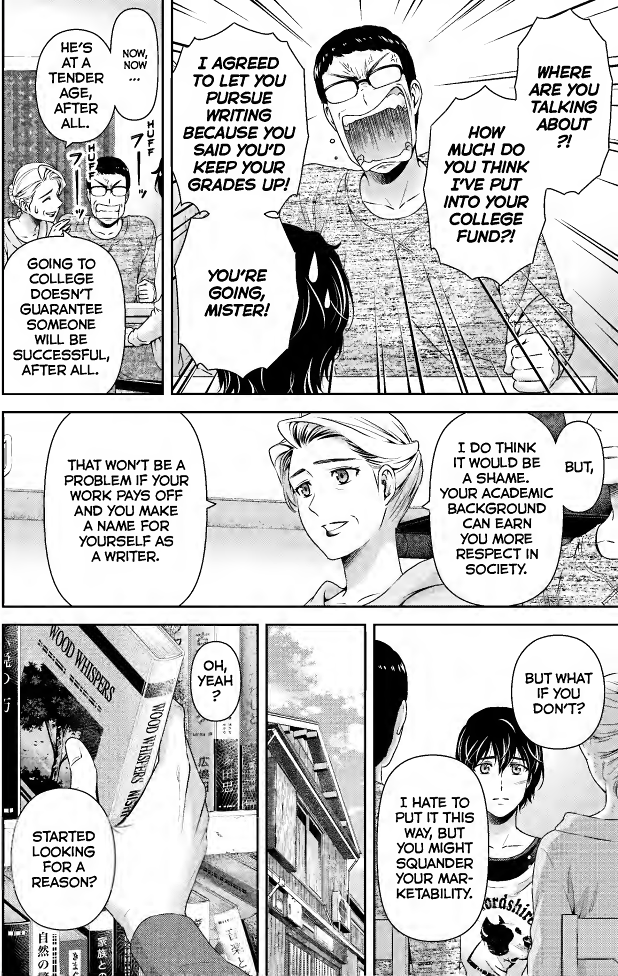

I'M GLAD.
YOU SEEM WELL.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT'VE BECOME INFAMOUS ACROSS THE ISLAND FOR YOUR DRUNKEN ANTICS BY NOW...
SLAP
ぴしゃ
NOOO, NOT YET!
I ONLY HAVE A BIT OF A NICKNAME.
SO, THEY KNOW YOU'RE A DRINKER.
IS NATSUO-KUN...
...WHO YOU THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU DRINK?
...
YOU'RE SO HONEST.
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR NEW YEAR'S?
ARE YOU STAYING HERE?
MY MOTHER CALLED AND ASKED ME THAT, TOO.
SHE TOLD ME TO COME BACK FOR THE HOLIDAYS,
BUT IT'S KIND OF HARD TO IN MY SITUATION.

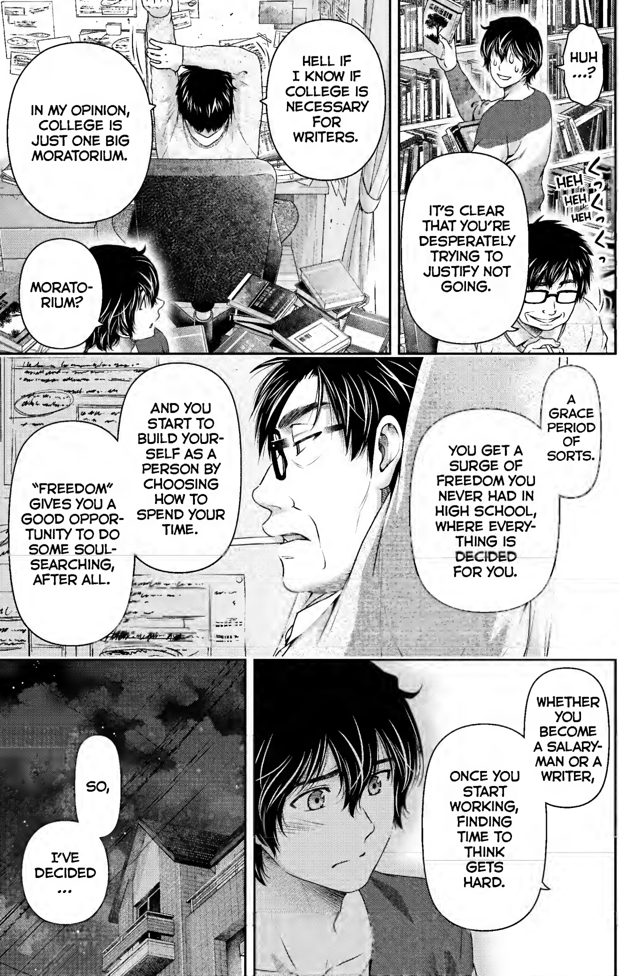

I'M STILL ...
...ON THE FENCE.
TEST
Center Examination Evaluation Mock Exam
模擬
SEASON
School
Grade Standard Score
合 ラ イ
D
A
B
C
COMETH!

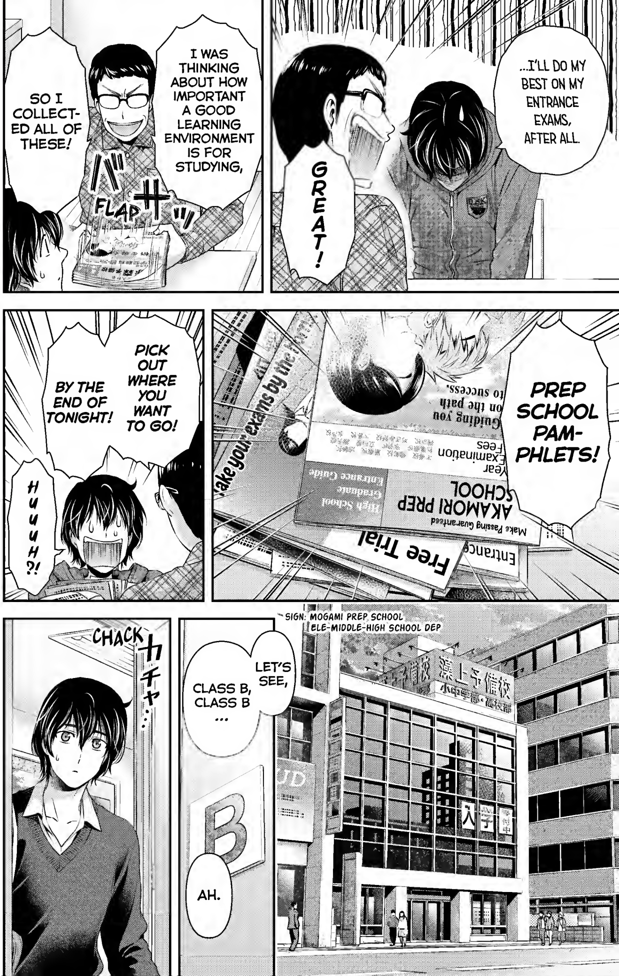

ERR... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH, YEAH. SORRY.
WELL, I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SHOCKED...
I TAKE IT YOU KNOW WHY I ASKED YOU TO SEE ME?
YOUR GRADES HAVE PLUMMETED SINCE THE BREAK ENDED.
I'M SURE YOU WANT TO FOCUS ON YOUR WRITING, SINCE YOU RECEIVED THAT AWARD AND ALL,
BUT YOU'RE PLANNING ON GOING TO COLLEGE, AREN'T YOU?
THEN, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON RIGHT NOW, RIGHT?
YES...
I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR...
ススス ZRRR...
はぁ SIGH
I WASN'T SURE WHAT SCHOOL I WANTED TO GO TO,
BUT AFTER A LOT OF THINKING, I DECIDED TO SHOOT FOR THE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT AT THE COLLEGE KIRIYA-SENSEI WENT TO.
I BARELY MANAGED TO GET A B ON THE MOCK EXAM IN JUNE,
BUT NOW...

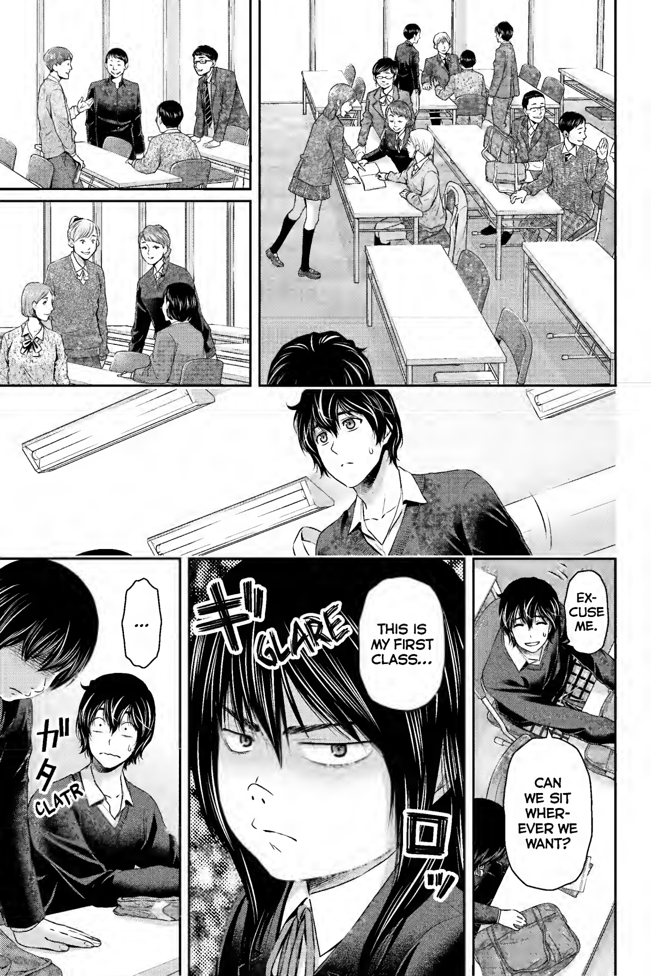

HOW NECESSARY IS COLLEGE?
ISN'T THAT DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE?
I'M NOT GOING BECAUSE I DON'T THINK IT'S FOR ME.
THAT'S THE THING!
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT I'D GO TO COLLEGE BECAUSE THERE WERE THINGS I WANTED TO LEARN,
BUT MY MAIN GOAL IS MAKING A LIVING OFF OF WRITING, RIGHT?
IN THAT CASE, I FEEL LIKE I CAN JUST STUDY ON MY OWN AND KEEP WRITING...
WHILE WORKING ON THE SIDE OR SOMETHING.
I SEE.
I GUESS THAT'S ONE ROUTE.
BUT IT'S RISKY TO JUST DECIDE ON A WHIM.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TALKING TO KIRIYA-SENSEI? HE'S YOUR WRITING MENTOR, AFTER ALL.
GOOD CALL!

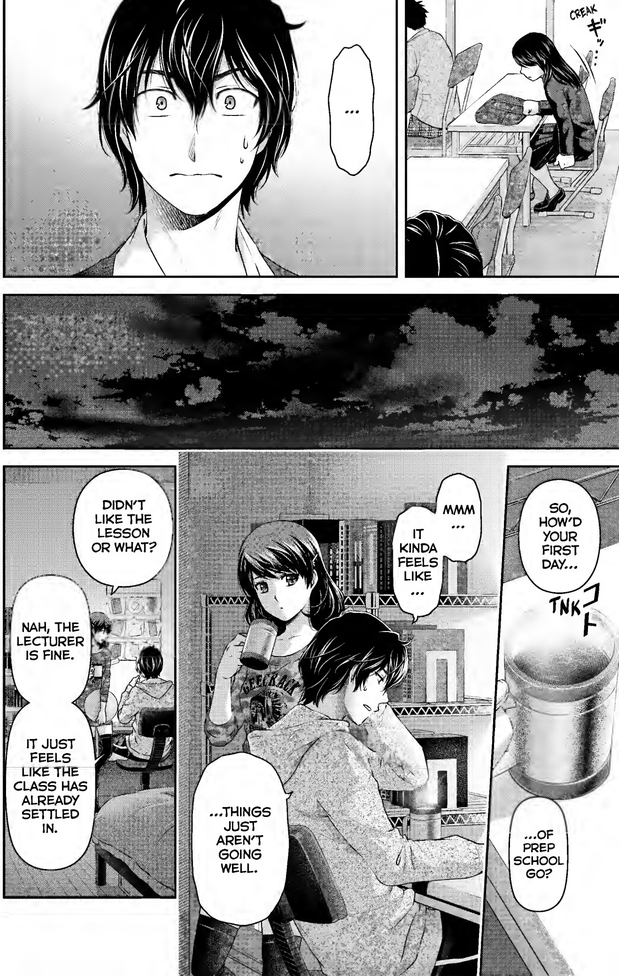

FACULTY
COL-LEGE?
I THINK IT'S FINE EITHER WAY,
WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO GO OR NOT.
RIGHT?! IT'S NOT LIKE I NEED TO GO TO COLLEGE TO BE A WRITER!
YES...
HOW-EVER,
I FEEL THAT ALL OF THE PEOPLE AND VARYING VIEWS I ENCOUNTERED AT COLLEGE,
AS WELL AS EVERYTHING I EXPERIENCED THERE HAS FACILITATED MY WRITING.
SO MUCH THAT I BELIEVE I MAY NEVER HAVE PURSUED WRITING HAD I NOT GONE TO COLLEGE.
SO, PERSONALLY,
I THINK GOING WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE.
HUH ?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU MIGHT NOT GO TO COLLEGE ?!
THUD

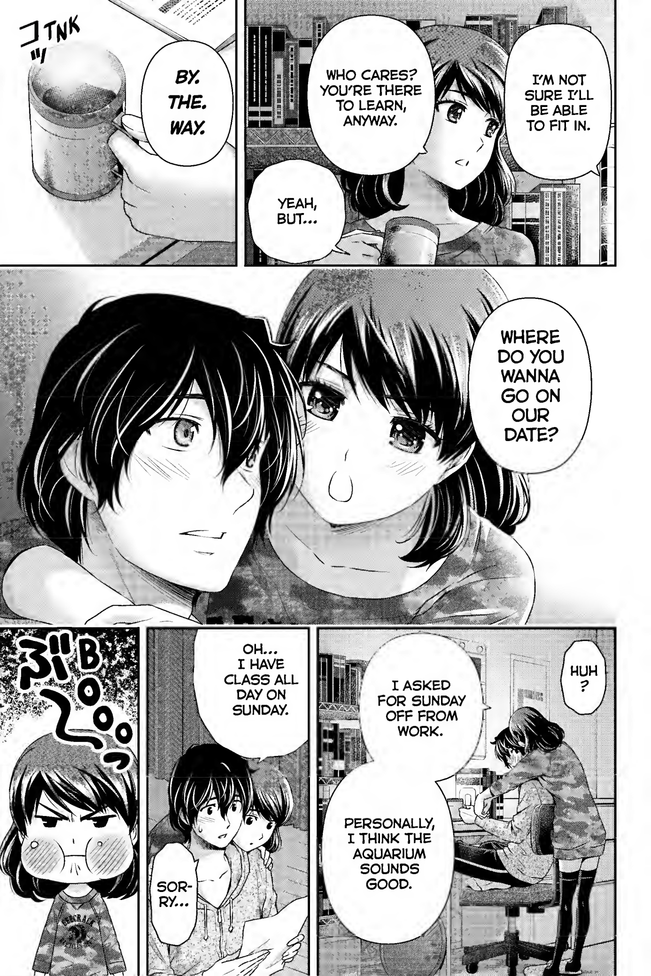

WHERE ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK I'VE PUT INTO YOUR COLLEGE FUND?!
I AGREED TO LET YOU PURSUE WRITING BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU'D KEEP YOUR GRADES UP!
YOU'RE GOING, MISTER!
NOW, NOW...
HE'S AT A TENDER AGE, AFTER ALL.
HUFF
HUFF
GOING TO COLLEGE DOESN'T GUARANTEE SOMEONE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL, AFTER ALL.
BUT,
I DO THINK IT WOULD BE A SHAME. YOUR ACADEMIC BACKGROUND CAN EARN YOU MORE RESPECT IN SOCIETY.
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM IF YOUR WORK PAYS OFF AND YOU MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF AS A WRITER.
BUT WHAT IF YOU DON'T?
I HATE TO PUT IT THIS WAY, BUT YOU MIGHT SQUANDER YOUR MARKETABILITY.
WOOD WHISPERS
WOOD WHISPERS
OH, YEAH?
STARTED LOOKING FOR A REASON?

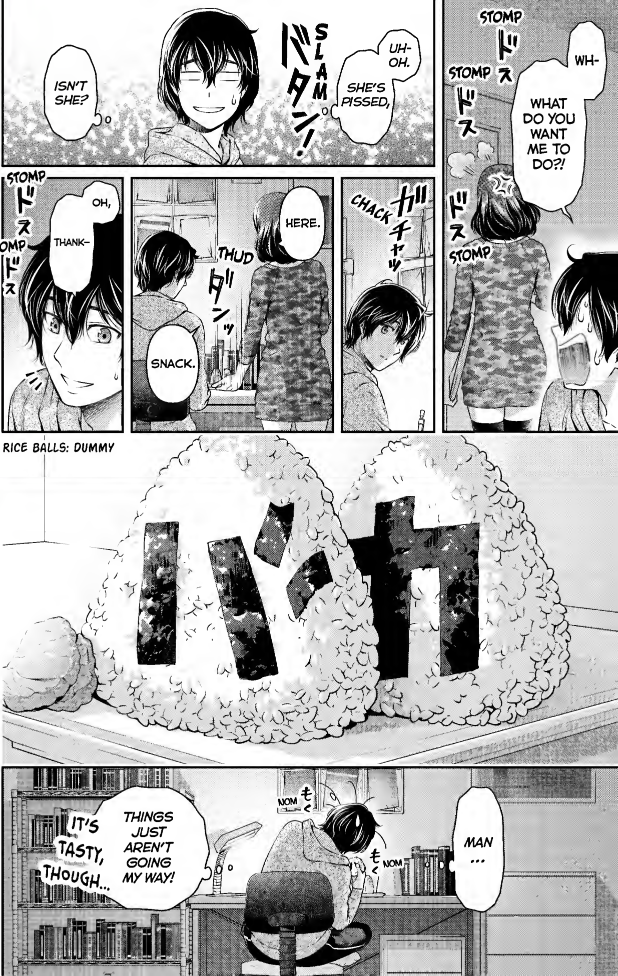

HUH ...?
HEH HEH HEH
IT'S CLEAR THAT YOU'RE DESPERATELY TRYING TO JUSTIFY NOT GOING.
HELL IF I KNOW IF COLLEGE IS NECESSARY FOR WRITERS.
IN MY OPINION, COLLEGE IS JUST ONE BIG MORATORIUM.
MORATORIUM?
A GRACE PERIOD OF SORTS.
YOU GET A SURGE OF FREEDOM YOU NEVER HAD IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE EVERYTHING IS DECIDED FOR YOU.
AND YOU START TO BUILD YOURSELF AS A PERSON BY CHOOSING HOW TO SPEND YOUR TIME.
"FREEDOM" GIVES YOU A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOME SOUL-SEARCHING, AFTER ALL.
WHETHER YOU BECOME A SALARYMAN OR A WRITER,
ONCE YOU START WORKING, FINDING TIME TO THINK GETS HARD.
SO,
I'VE DECIDED ...


...I'LL DO MY BEST ON MY ENTRANCE EXAMS, AFTER ALL.
GREAT!
I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT A GOOD LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IS FOR STUDYING,
SO I COLLECTED ALL OF THESE!
バサ
FLAP
PREP SCHOOL PAMPHLETS!
Make Passing Guaranteed
AKAMORI PREP SCHOOL
High School Graduate Entrance Guide
Year Examination Fees
Guiding you on the path to success.
Free Trial
Entrance
Make your exams by the
PICK OUT WHERE YOU WANT TO GO!
BY THE END OF TONIGHT!
HUUUH?!
SIGN: MOGAMI PREP SCHOOL ELE-MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL DEP
入学
LET'S SEE, CLASS B, CLASS B...
B
AH.
CHACK
カチャ…


EXCUSE ME.
CAN WE SIT WHEREVER WE WANT?
THIS IS MY FIRST CLASS...
ギ GLARE
ロ
...
ガタ CLATR


CREAK
ギッ
...
SO, HOW'D YOUR FIRST DAY...
TNK コト
...OF PREP SCHOOL GO?
MMM ...
IT KINDA FEELS LIKE ...
...THINGS JUST AREN'T GOING WELL.
DIDN'T LIKE THE LESSON OR WHAT?
NAH, THE LECTURER IS FINE.
IT JUST FEELS LIKE THE CLASS HAS ALREADY SETTLED IN.


I'M NOT SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO FIT IN.
WHO CARES? YOU'RE THERE TO LEARN, ANYWAY.
YEAH, BUT...
コツ TNK
BY. THE. WAY.
WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO ON OUR DATE?
HUH?
I ASKED FOR SUNDAY OFF FROM WORK.
PERSONALLY, I THINK THE AQUARIUM SOUNDS GOOD.
OH... I HAVE CLASS ALL DAY ON SUNDAY.
SOR-RY...
ぶー BOOO

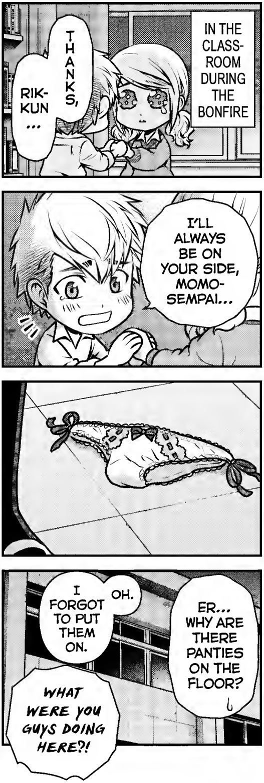

STOMP ドス
STOMP ドス
WH-
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?!
ドス STOMP
SLAM バタン!
UH-OH.
SHE'S PISSED,
ISN'T SHE?
CHACK ガチャッ
HERE.
THUD ダンッ
SNACK.
STOMP ドス
STOMP ドス
OH,
THANK-
RICE BALLS: DUMMY
バカ
MAN...
NOM もく
NOM もく
THINGS JUST AREN'T GOING MY WAY!
IT'S TASTY, THOUGH...

Profitez d'un délicieux gâteau

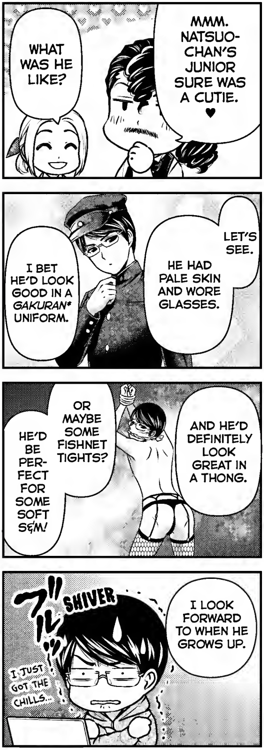
CHAPTER 119: WILL YOU...

DOMEGIRL 4-PANEL THEATER

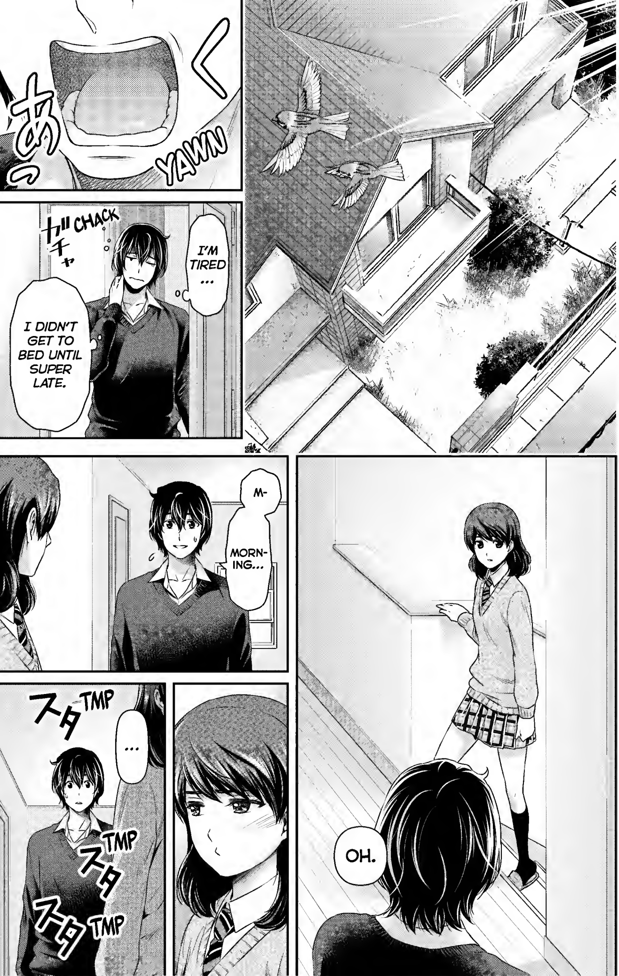
YOU DROPPED THIS

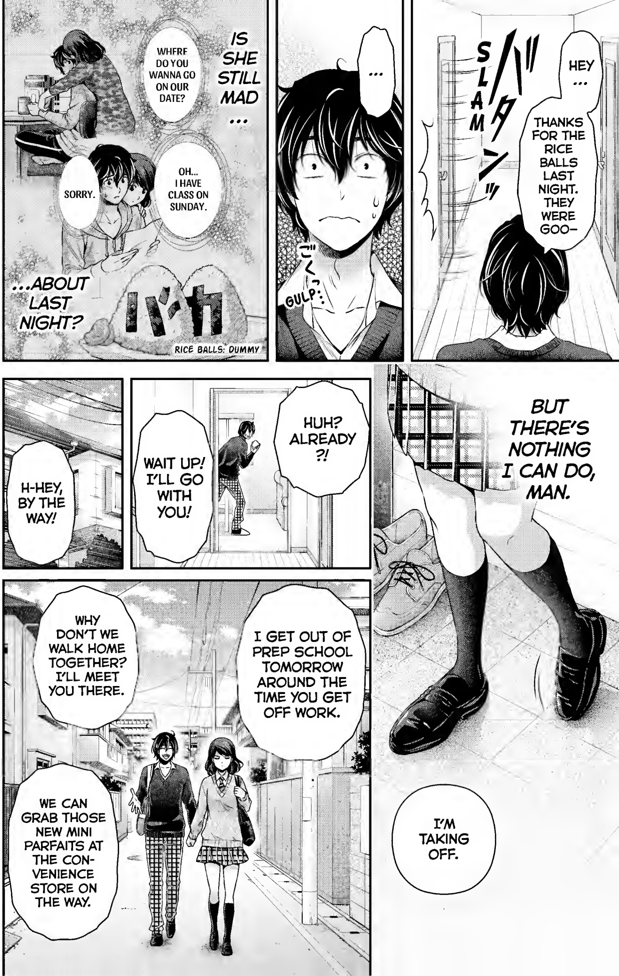

IN THE CLASSROOM DURING THE BONFIRE
THANKS,
RIK-KUN...
I'LL ALWAYS BE ON YOUR SIDE, MOMO-SEMPAI...
ER... WHY ARE THERE PANTIES ON THE FLOOR?
OH.
I FORGOT TO PUT THEM ON.
WHAT WERE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?!

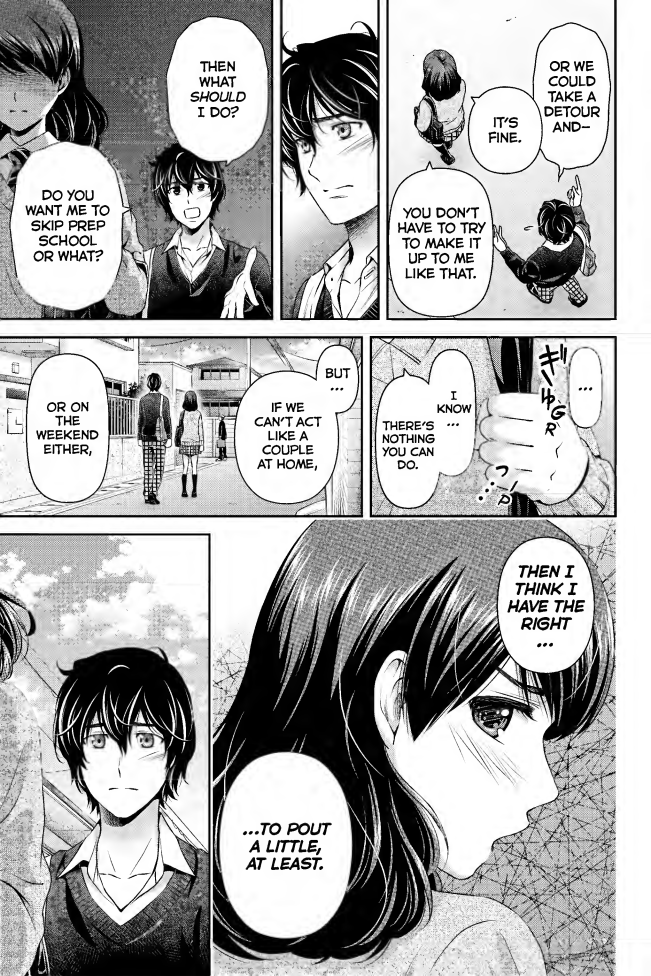
PROMISE

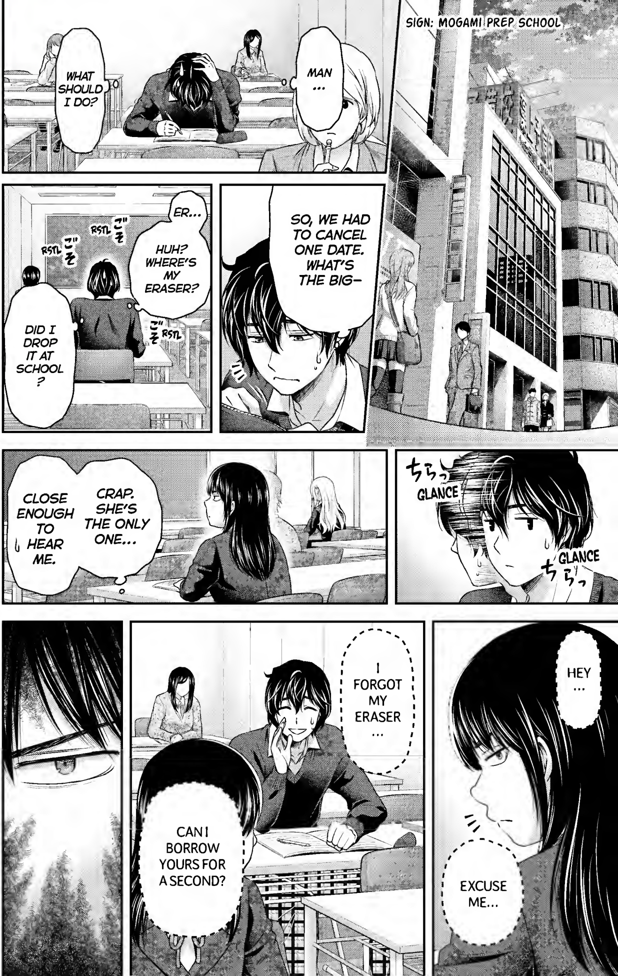

MMM. NATSUO-CHAN'S JUNIOR SURE WAS A CUTIE. ♥
WHAT WAS HE LIKE?
LET'S SEE.
HE HAD PALE SKIN AND WORE GLASSES.
I BET HE'D LOOK GOOD IN A *GAKURAN** UNIFORM.
AND HE'D DEFINITELY LOOK GREAT IN A THONG.
OR MAYBE SOME FISHNET TIGHTS?
HE'D BE PERFECT FOR SOME SOFT S&M!
I LOOK FORWARD TO WHEN HE GROWS UP.
フル
SHIVER
I JUST GOT THE CHILLS...

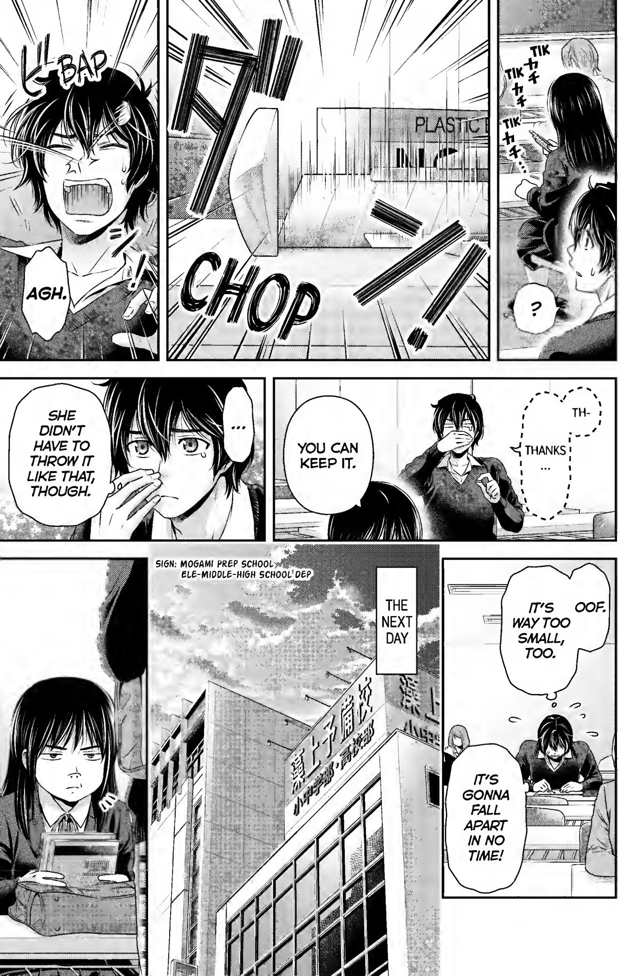
*GAKURAN: A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM CONSISTING OF A BUTTON-DOWN JACKET AND SLACKS.

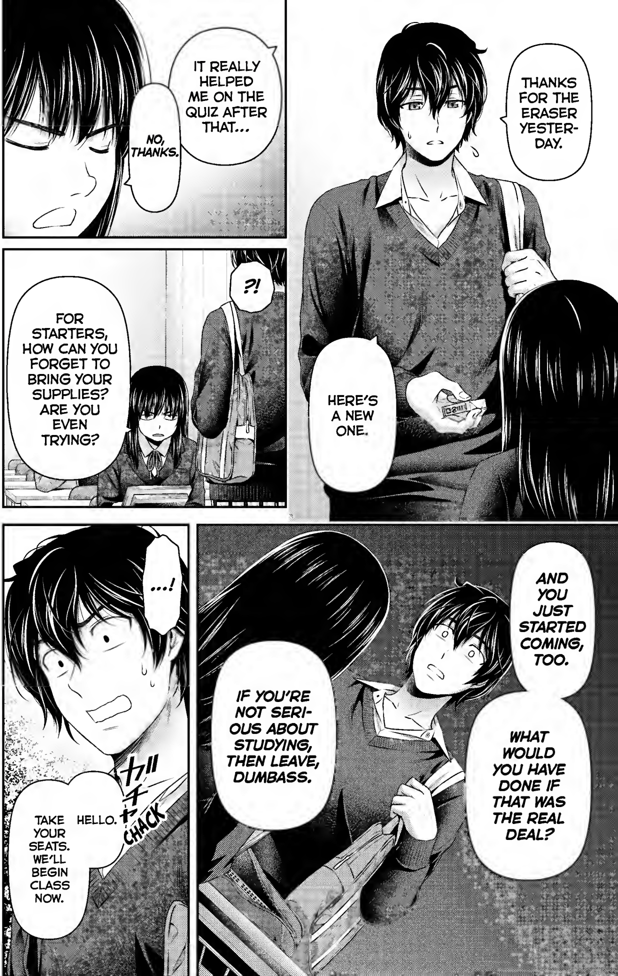

くあっ
YAWN
ガチャ CHACK
I'M TIRED...
I DIDN'T GET TO BED UNTIL SUPER LATE.
OH.
M- MORNING...
スタ TMP
...
スタ TMP
スタ TMP

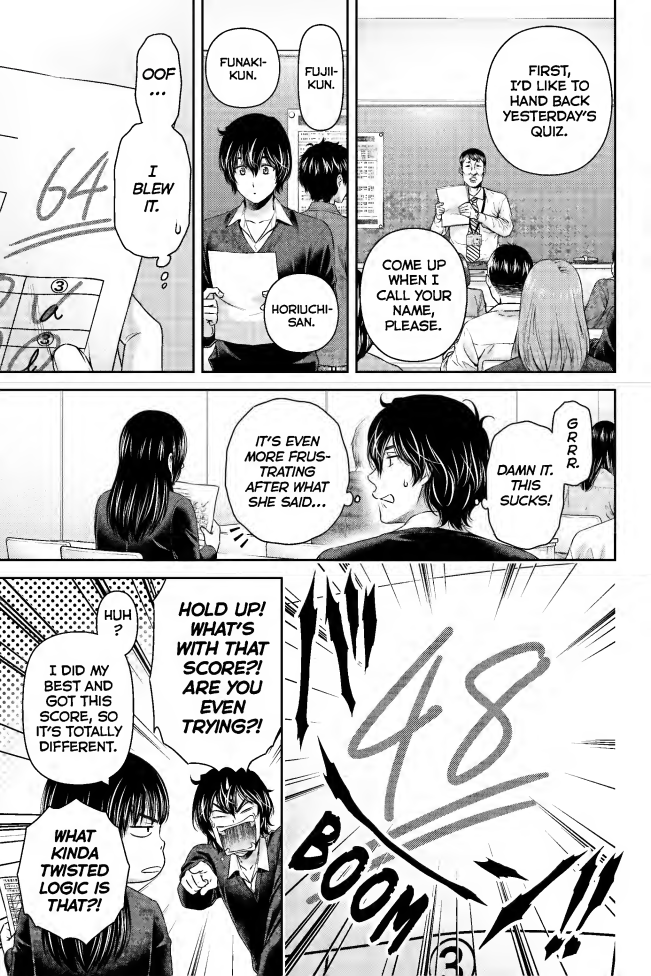

HEY...
THANKS FOR THE RICE BALLS LAST NIGHT. THEY WERE GOO—
SLAM
バタンッ
...
ごくっ
GULP
IS SHE STILL MAD...
WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO ON OUR DATE?
OH... I HAVE CLASS ON SUNDAY.
SORRY.
バカ
RICE BALLS: DUMMY
...ABOUT LAST NIGHT?
BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO, MAN.
I'M TAKING OFF.
HUH? ALREADY?!
WAIT UP! I'LL GO WITH YOU!
H-HEY, BY THE WAY!
I GET OUT OF PREP SCHOOL TOMORROW AROUND THE TIME YOU GET OFF WORK.
WHY DON'T WE WALK HOME TOGETHER? I'LL MEET YOU THERE.
WE CAN GRAB THOSE NEW MINI PARFAITS AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE ON THE WAY.

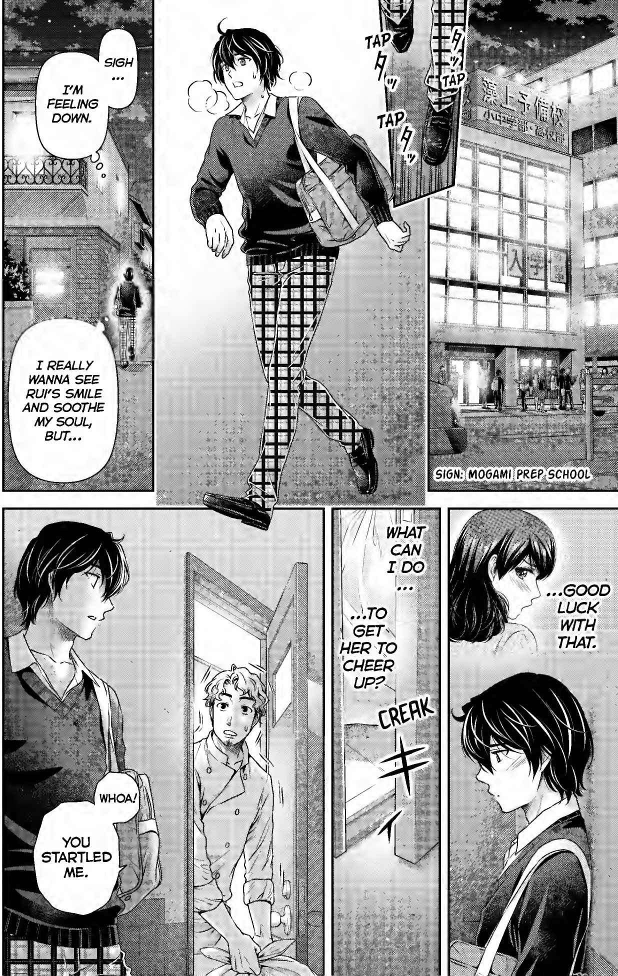

OR WE COULD TAKE A DETOUR AND–
IT'S FINE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO MAKE IT UP TO ME LIKE THAT.
THEN WHAT *SHOULD* I DO?
DO YOU WANT ME TO SKIP PREP SCHOOL OR WHAT?
...
ぎゅっ
GRIP
I KNOW...
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
BUT...
IF WE CAN'T ACT LIKE A COUPLE AT HOME,
OR ON THE WEEKEND EITHER,
THEN I THINK I HAVE THE RIGHT...
...TO POUT A LITTLE, AT LEAST.

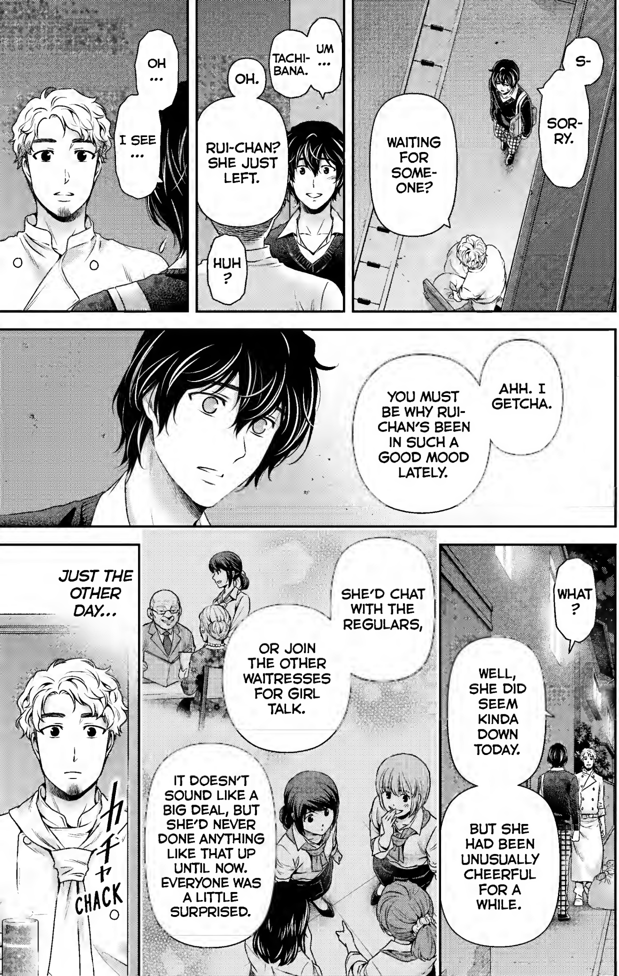

SIGN: MOGAMI PREP SCHOOL
MAN ...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SO, WE HAD TO CANCEL ONE DATE. WHAT'S THE BIG–
ER...
RSTL ごそ
RSTL ごそ
HUH? WHERE'S MY ERASER?
ごそ RSTL
DID I DROP IT AT SCHOOL?
ちらっ GLANCE
GLANCE ちらっ
CRAP. SHE'S THE ONLY ONE...
CLOSE ENOUGH TO HEAR ME.
HEY ...
EXCUSE ME...
I FORGOT MY ERASER ...
CAN I BORROW YOURS FOR A SECOND?

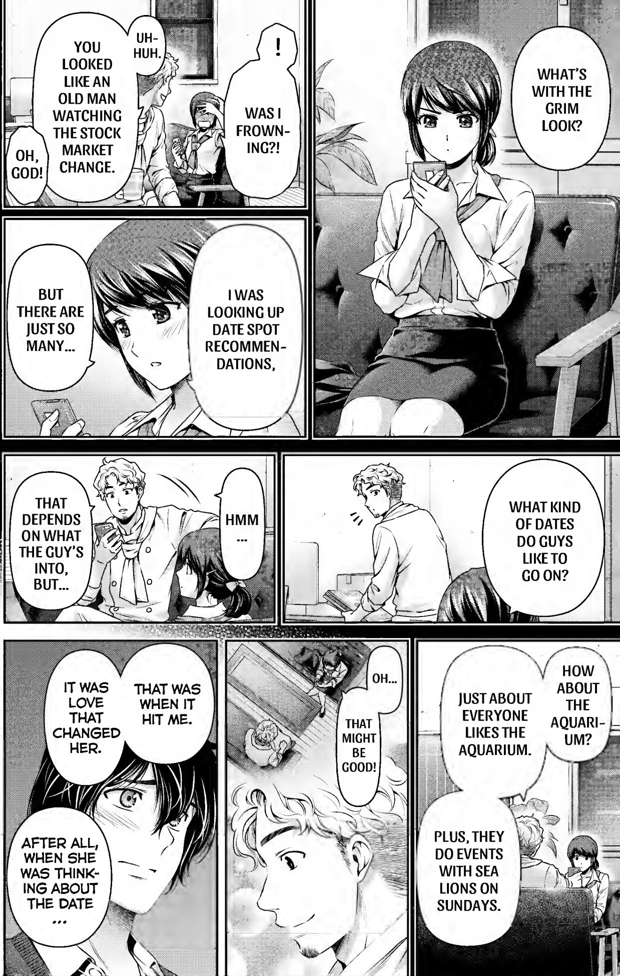

TIK カチ
TIK カチ
TIK カチ…
?
PLASTIC
ガッ
CHOP
ン!
ビシ BAP
AGH.
!
TH-
THANKS…
YOU CAN KEEP IT.
…
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO THROW IT LIKE THAT, THOUGH.
IT'S WAY TOO SMALL, TOO.
OOF.
IT'S GONNA FALL APART IN NO TIME!
THE NEXT DAY
SIGN: MOGAMI PREP SCHOOL ELE-MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL DEP
最上予備校
小中学部・高校部

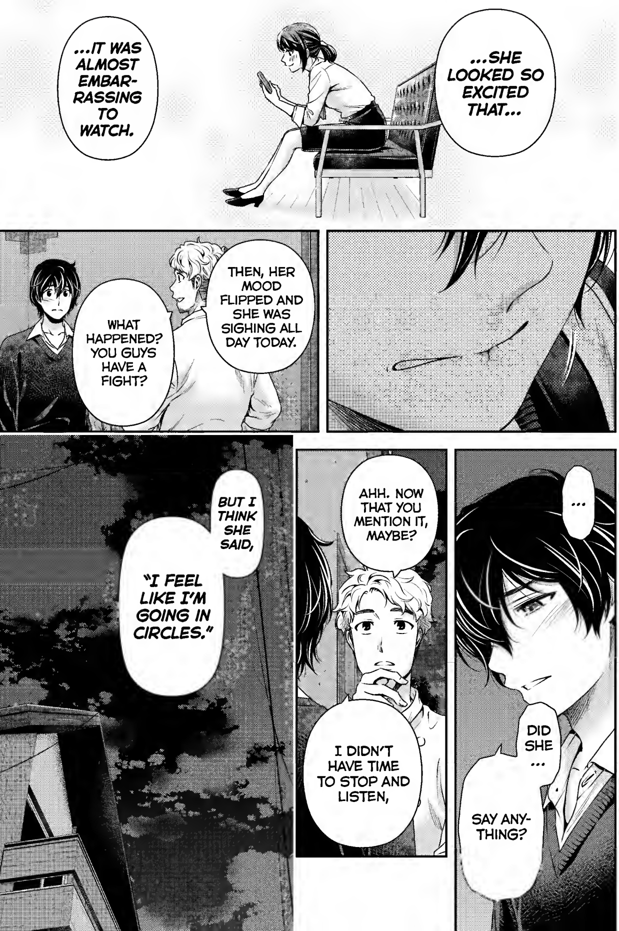

THANKS FOR THE ERASER YESTERDAY.
HERE'S A NEW ONE.
IT REALLY HELPED ME ON THE QUIZ AFTER THAT...
NO, THANKS.
?!
FOR STARTERS, HOW CAN YOU FORGET TO BRING YOUR SUPPLIES? ARE YOU EVEN TRYING?
AND YOU JUST STARTED COMING, TOO.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF THAT WAS THE REAL DEAL?
IF YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS ABOUT STUDYING, THEN LEAVE, DUMBASS.
...!
ガチャ CHACK
HELLO.
TAKE YOUR SEATS. WE'LL BEGIN CLASS NOW.

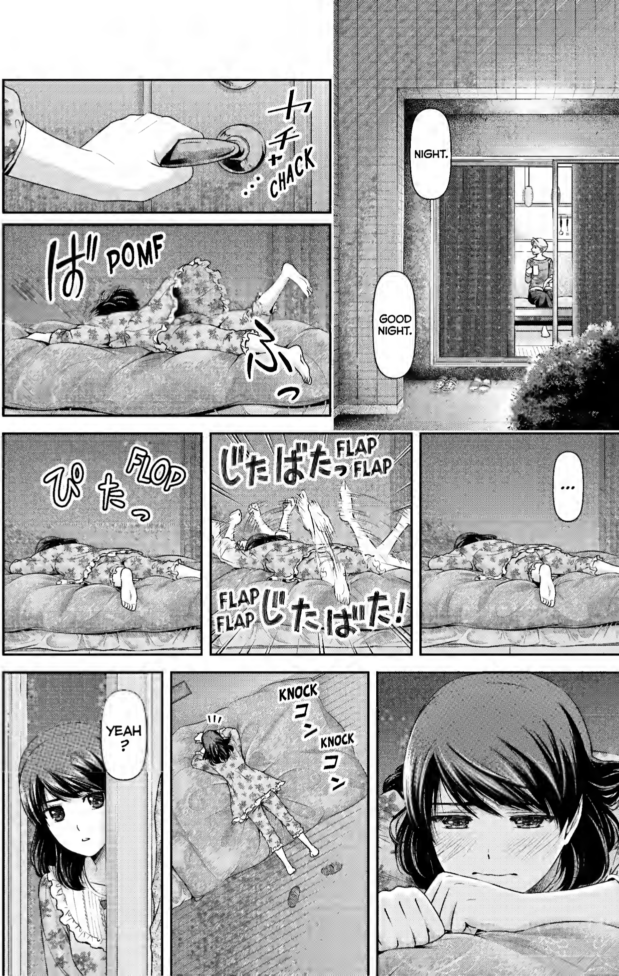

FIRST, I'D LIKE TO HAND BACK YESTERDAY'S QUIZ.
COME UP WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME, PLEASE.
FUJII-KUN.
FUNAKI-KUN.
HORIUCHI-SAN.
OOF...
I BLEW IT.
64
③
③
GRRR.
DAMN IT. THIS SUCKS!
IT'S EVEN MORE FRUSTRATING AFTER WHAT SHE SAID...
48
BOOM
③
HOLD UP! WHAT'S WITH THAT SCORE?! ARE YOU EVEN TRYING?!
HUH?
I DID MY BEST AND GOT THIS SCORE, SO IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
WHAT KINDA TWISTED LOGIC IS THAT?!

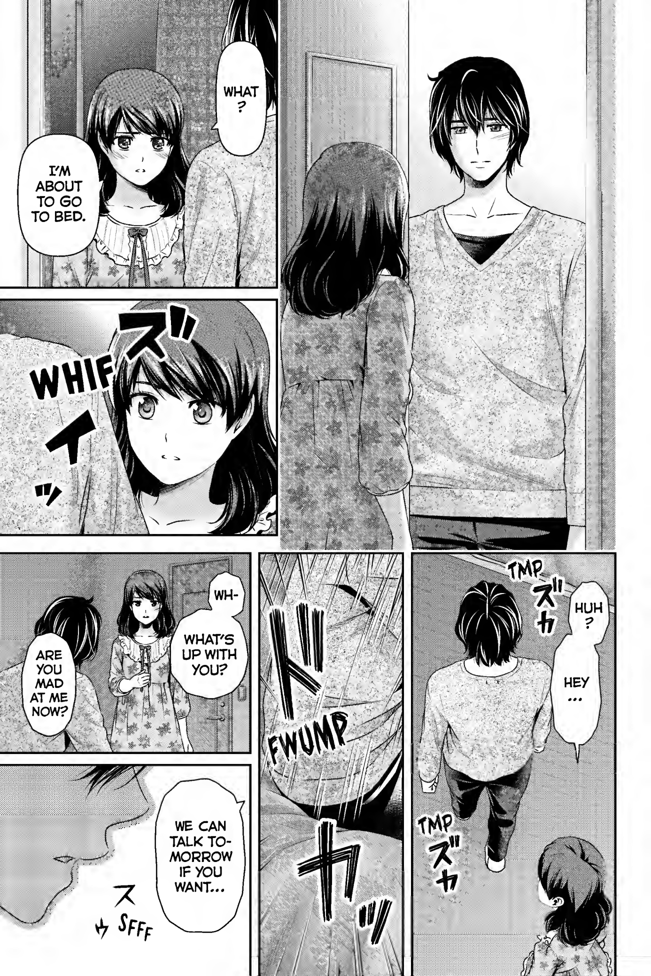

TAP タッ
TAP タッ
TAP タッ
藻上予備校
小中学部・高校部
SIGN: MOGAMI PREP SCHOOL
SIGH...
I'M FEELING DOWN.
I REALLY WANNA SEE RUI'S SMILE AND SOOTHE MY SOUL, BUT...
...GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
WHAT CAN I DO...
...TO GET HER TO CHEER UP?
CREAK キィ
WHOA!
YOU STARTLED ME.

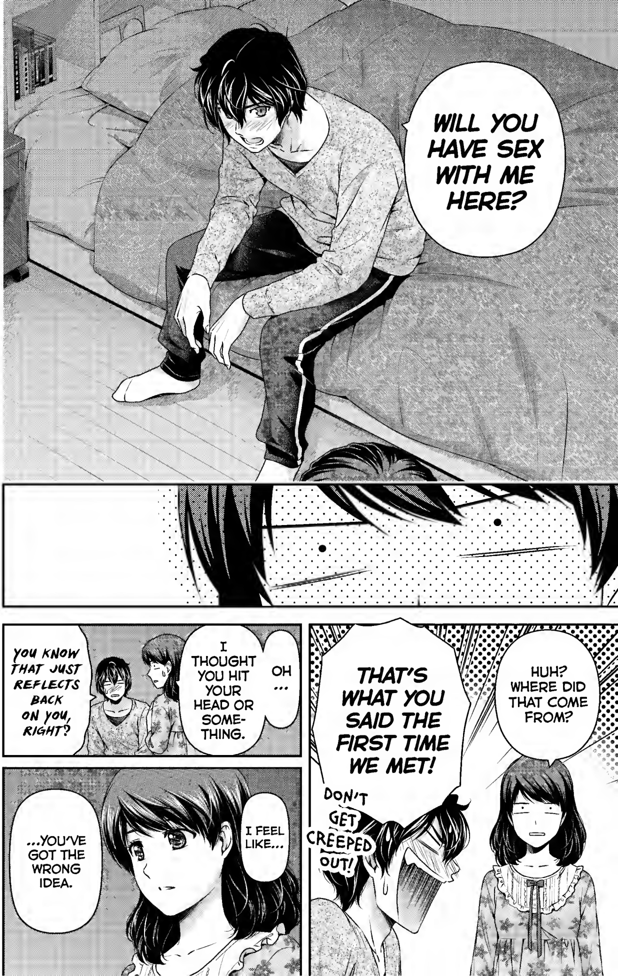

S- SORRY.
WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
UM ...
TACHIBANA.
OH.
RUI-CHAN? SHE JUST LEFT.
HUH?
OH ...
I SEE ...
AHH. I GETCHA.
YOU MUST BE WHY RUI-CHAN'S BEEN IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD LATELY.
WHAT?
WELL, SHE DID SEEM KINDA DOWN TODAY.
BUT SHE HAD BEEN UNUSUALLY CHEERFUL FOR A WHILE.
SHE'D CHAT WITH THE REGULARS,
OR JOIN THE OTHER WAITRESSES FOR GIRL TALK.
IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A BIG DEAL, BUT SHE'D NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT UP UNTIL NOW. EVERYONE WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED.
JUST THE OTHER DAY...
カチャ
CHACK

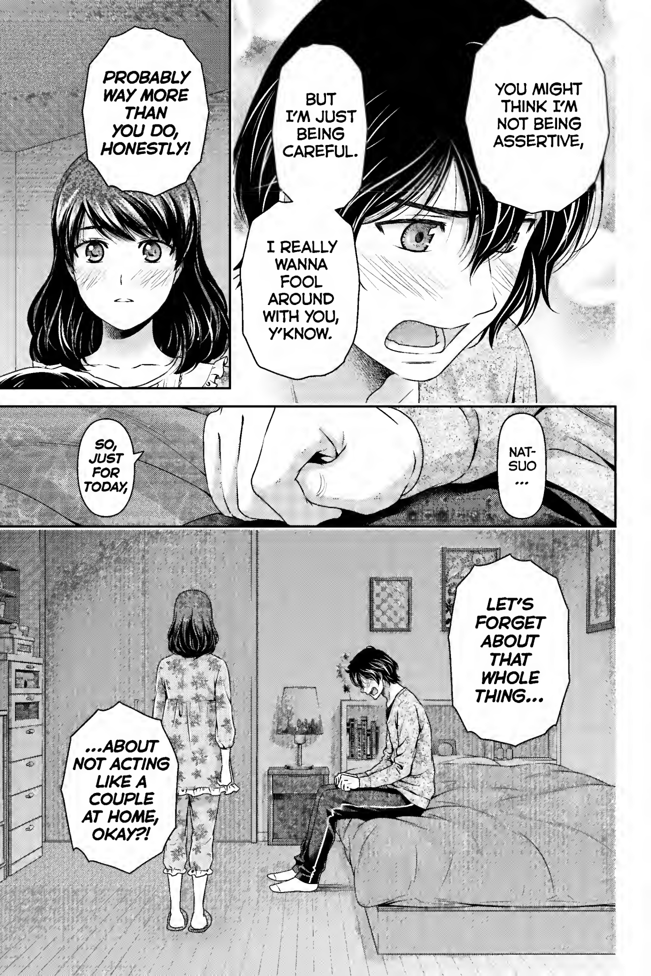

WHAT'S WITH THE GRIM LOOK?
!
WAS I FROWNING?!
UH-HUH.
YOU LOOKED LIKE AN OLD MAN WATCHING THE STOCK MARKET CHANGE.
OH, GOD!
I WAS LOOKING UP DATE SPOT RECOMMENDATIONS,
BUT THERE ARE JUST SO MANY...
WHAT KIND OF DATES DO GUYS LIKE TO GO ON?
HMM ...
THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT THE GUY'S INTO, BUT...
HOW ABOUT THE AQUARIUM?
JUST ABOUT EVERYONE LIKES THE AQUARIUM.
PLUS, THEY DO EVENTS WITH SEA LIONS ON SUNDAYS.
OH...
THAT MIGHT BE GOOD!
THAT WAS WHEN IT HIT ME.
IT WAS LOVE THAT CHANGED HER.
AFTER ALL, WHEN SHE WAS THINKING ABOUT THE DATE ...

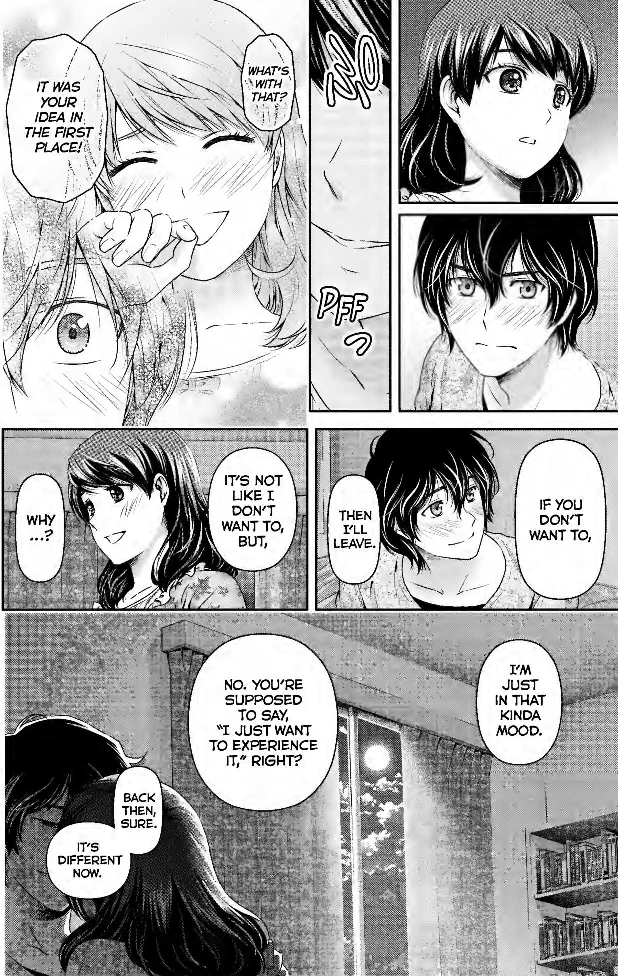

...SHE LOOKED SO EXCITED THAT...
...IT WAS ALMOST EMBARRASSING TO WATCH.
THEN, HER MOOD FLIPPED AND SHE WAS SIGHING ALL DAY TODAY.
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU GUYS HAVE A FIGHT?
...
DID SHE ...
SAY ANYTHING?
AHH. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, MAYBE?
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO STOP AND LISTEN,
BUT I THINK SHE SAID,
"I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING IN CIRCLES."


NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.
カチャ…
CHACK
ば POMF
ふっ
…
じたばたっ FLAP FLAP
FLAP FLAP じたばた!
ぴたっ FLOP
KNOCK
コン
KNOCK
コン
YEAH?

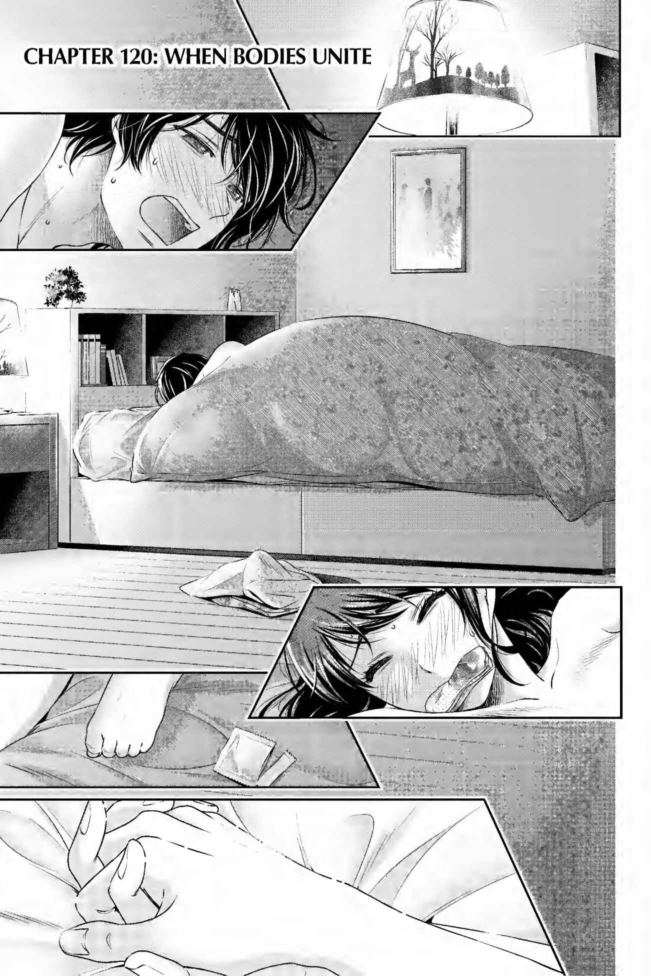

WHAT ?
I'M ABOUT TO GO TO BED.
ズイッ
WHIF
TMP ズカ
HUH ?
HEY …
TMP ズカ
ドカッ
FWUMP
WH-
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
ARE YOU MAD AT ME NOW?
WE CAN TALK TO-MORROW IF YOU WANT…
スゥ
SFFF

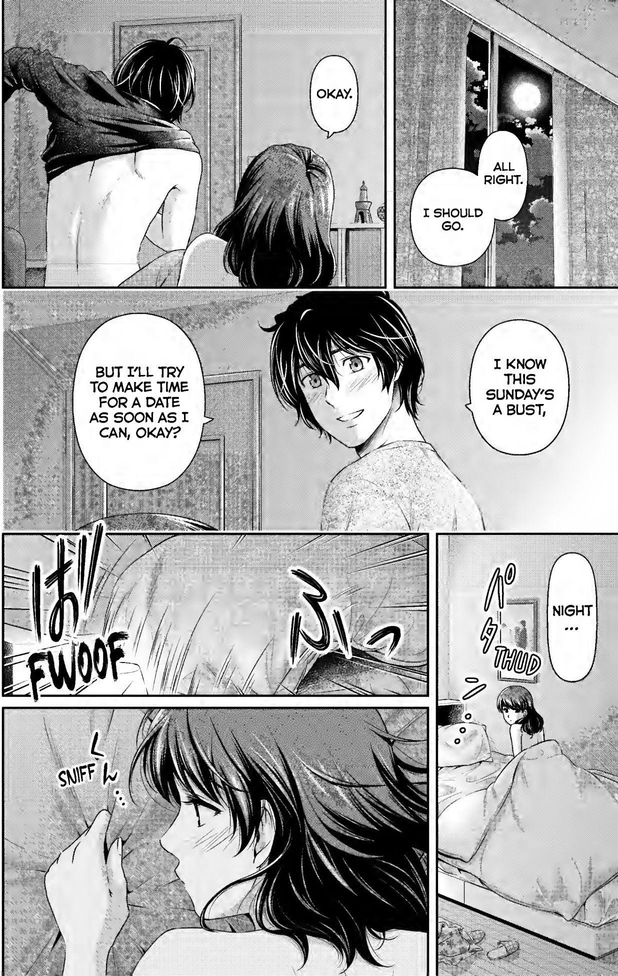

WILL YOU HAVE SEX WITH ME HERE?
HUH? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID THE FIRST TIME WE MET!
DON'T GET CREEPED OUT!
OH ...
I THOUGHT YOU HIT YOUR HEAD OR SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW THAT JUST REFLECTS BACK ON YOU, RIGHT?
I FEEL LIKE...
...YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA.

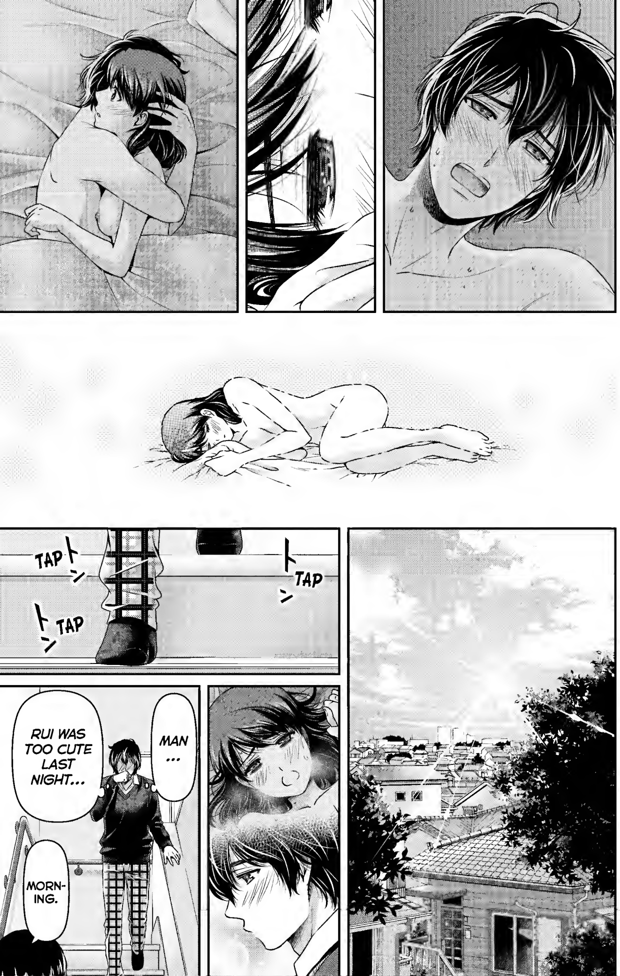

YOU MIGHT THINK I'M NOT BEING ASSERTIVE,
BUT I'M JUST BEING CAREFUL.
I REALLY WANNA FOOL AROUND WITH YOU, Y'KNOW.
PROBABLY WAY MORE THAN YOU DO, HONESTLY!
NATSUO...
SO, JUST FOR TODAY,
LET'S FORGET ABOUT THAT WHOLE THING...
...ABOUT NOT ACTING LIKE A COUPLE AT HOME, OKAY?!

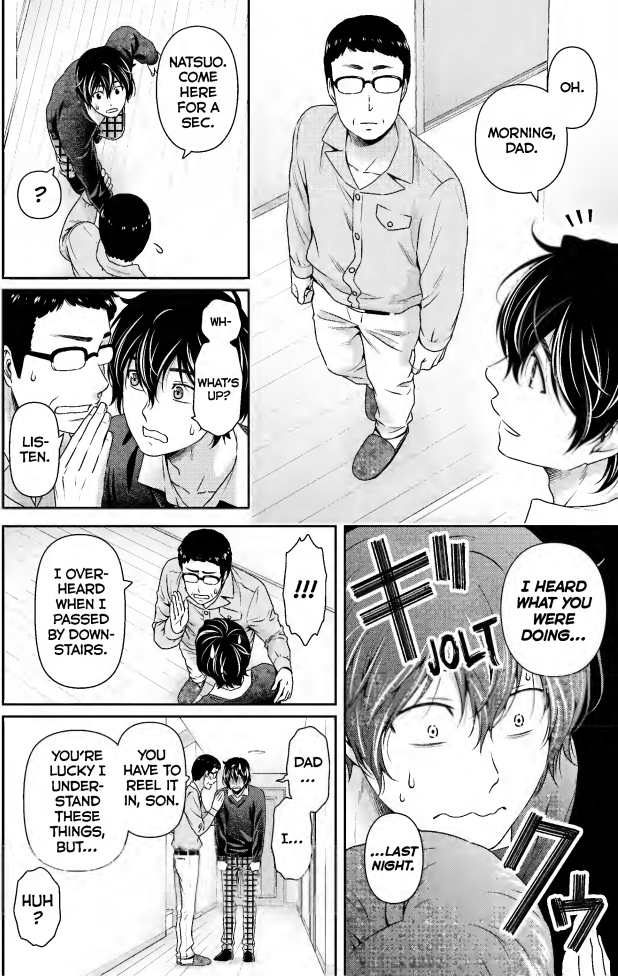

MO
PFF
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
IT WAS YOUR IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO,
THEN I'LL LEAVE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T WANT TO, BUT,
WHY ...?
I'M JUST IN THAT KINDA MOOD.
NO. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY, "I JUST WANT TO EXPERIENCE IT," RIGHT?
BACK THEN, SURE.
IT'S DIFFERENT NOW.

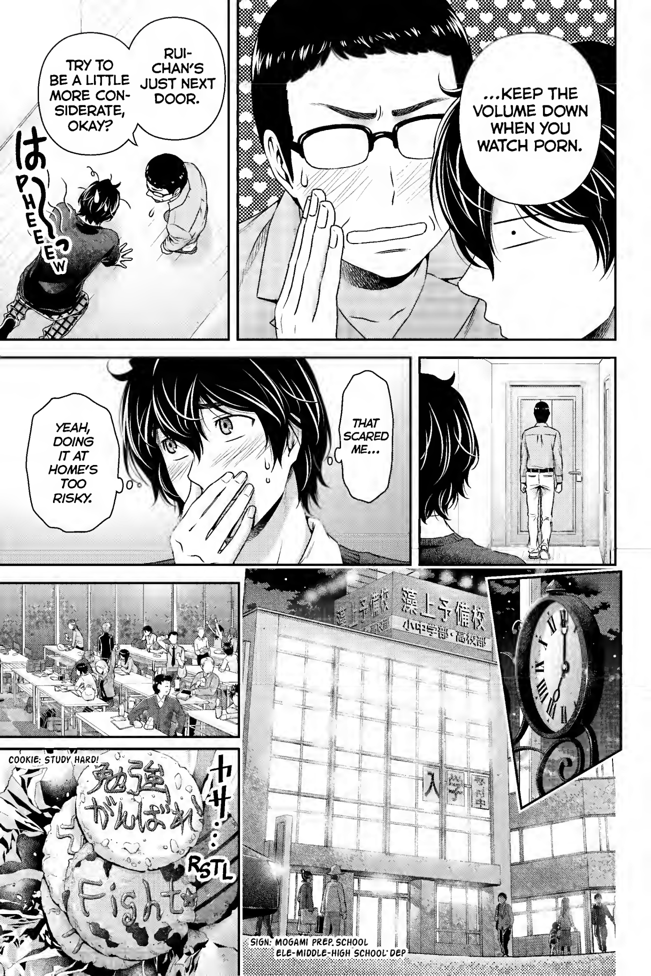
CHAPTER 120: WHEN BODIES UNITE

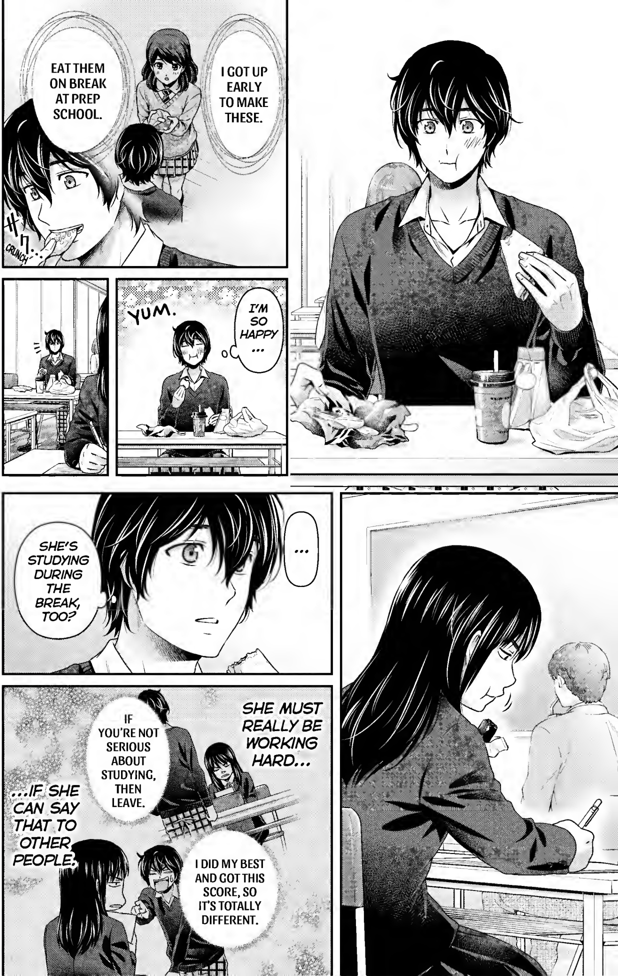


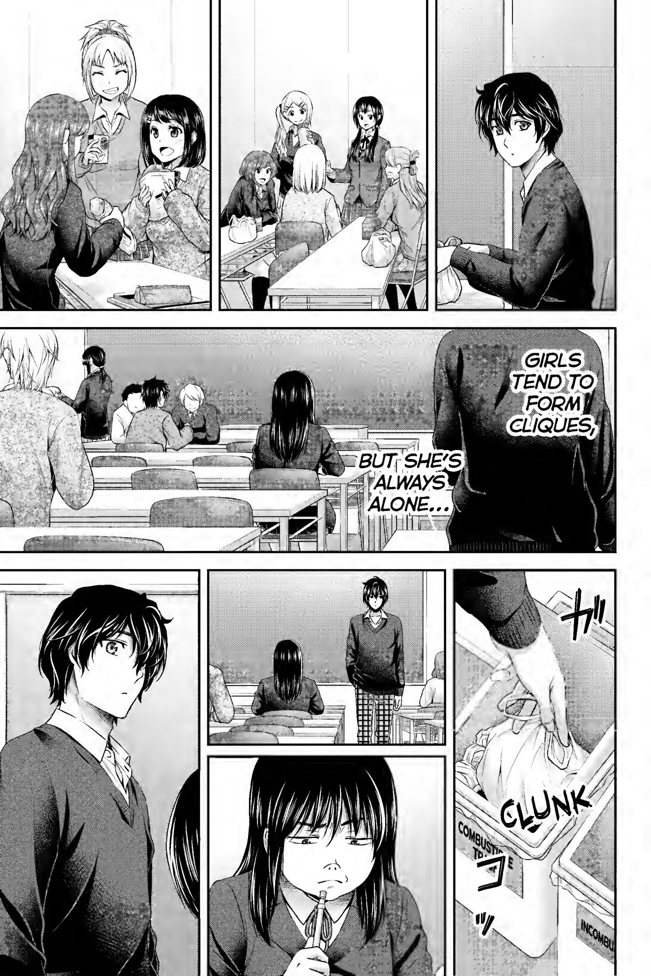

ALL RIGHT.
I SHOULD GO.
OKAY.
I KNOW THIS SUNDAY'S A BUST,
BUT I'LL TRY TO MAKE TIME FOR A DATE AS SOON AS I CAN, OKAY?
NIGHT...
パタ THUD
ふっ
ぼ FWOOF
くん... SNIFF

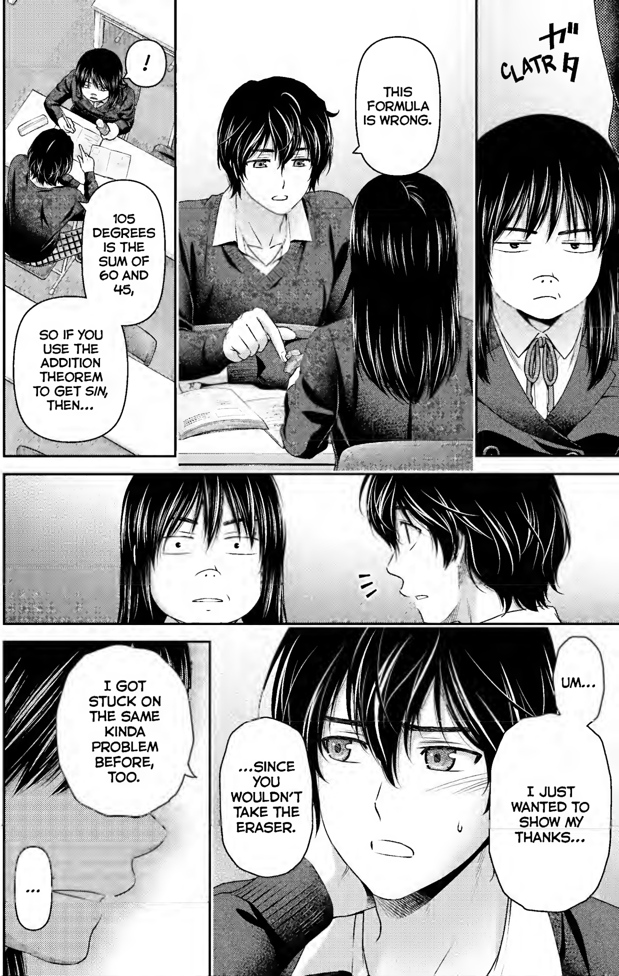

トン TAP
トン TAP
トン TAP
MAN...
RUI WAS TOO CUTE LAST NIGHT...
MORNING.

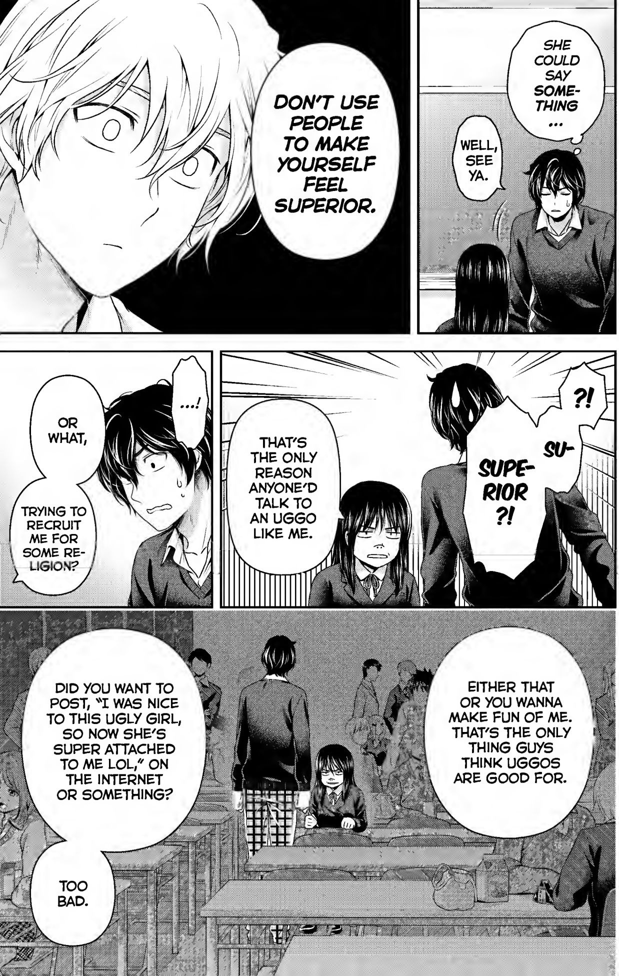

OH.
MORNING, DAD.
NATSUO. COME HERE FOR A SEC.
?
WH-
WHAT'S UP?
LISTEN.
ギクッ
JOLT
I HEARD WHAT YOU WERE DOING...
...LAST NIGHT.
I OVERHEARD WHEN I PASSED BY DOWNSTAIRS.
!!!
DAD...
I...
YOU HAVE TO REEL IT IN, SON.
YOU'RE LUCKY I UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS, BUT...
HUH?

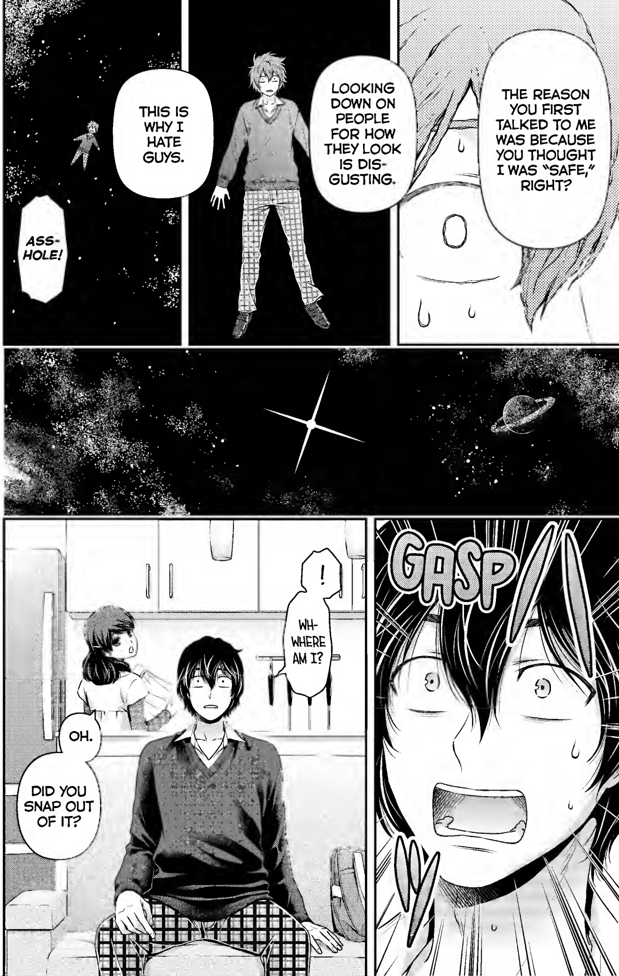

...KEEP THE VOLUME DOWN WHEN YOU WATCH PORN.
RUI-CHAN'S JUST NEXT DOOR.
TRY TO BE A LITTLE MORE CONSIDERATE, OKAY?
は〜〜っ
PHEEEEEW
THAT SCARED ME...
YEAH, DOING IT AT HOME'S TOO RISKY.
藻上予備校
藻上予備校 小中学部・高校部
SIGN: MOGAMI PREP. SCHOOL ELE-MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL DEP
カサ…
RSTL
COOKIE: STUDY HARD!
勉強がんばれ!
Fight☆

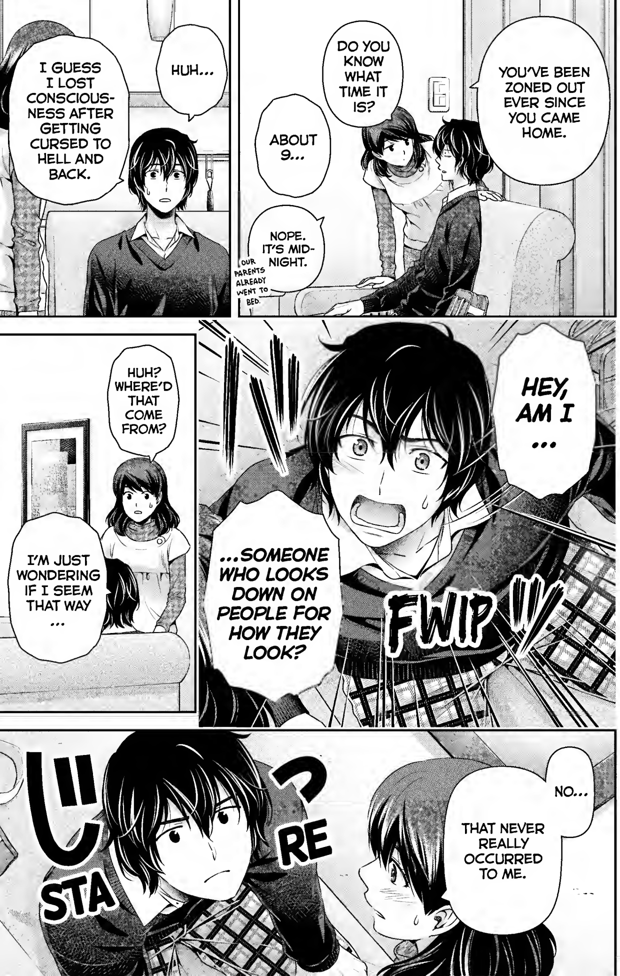

I GOT UP EARLY TO MAKE THESE.
EAT THEM ON BREAK AT PREP SCHOOL.
CRUNCH
YUM.
I'M SO HAPPY...
...
SHE'S STUDYING DURING THE BREAK, TOO?
SHE MUST REALLY BE WORKING HARD...
IF YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS ABOUT STUDYING, THEN LEAVE.
...IF SHE CAN SAY THAT TO OTHER PEOPLE.
I DID MY BEST AND GOT THIS SCORE, SO IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

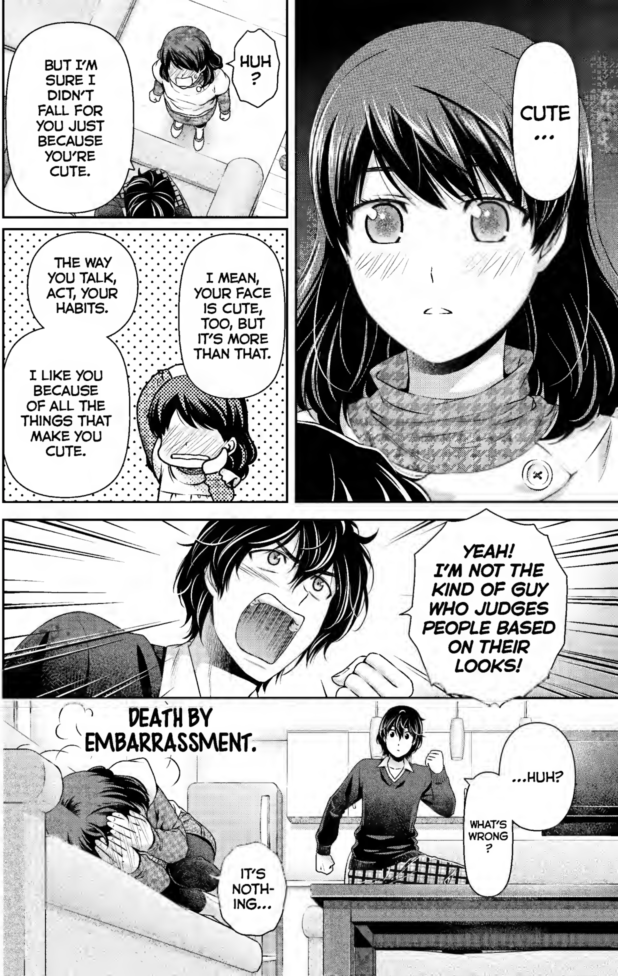

GIRLS TEND TO FORM CLIQUES,
BUT SHE'S ALWAYS ALONE...
ガ
CLUNK
ゴ
ッ
COMBUSTIBLE TRASH
INCOMBU

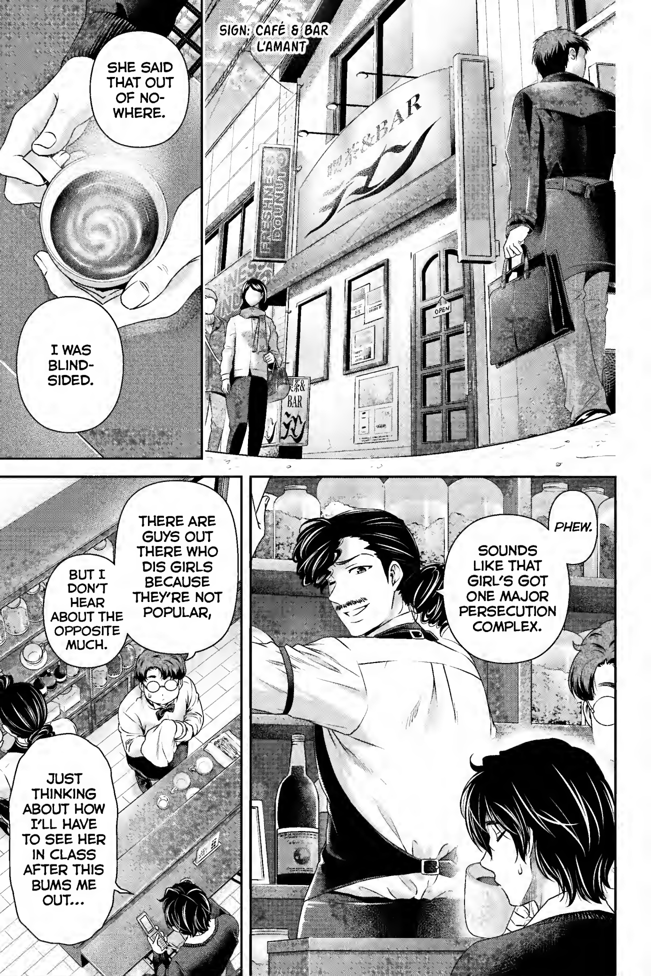

ガタ
CLATR
THIS FORMULA IS WRONG.
!
105 DEGREES IS THE SUM OF 60 AND 45,
SO IF YOU USE THE ADDITION THEOREM TO GET SIN, THEN...
UM...
I JUST WANTED TO SHOW MY THANKS...
...SINCE YOU WOULDN'T TAKE THE ERASER.
I GOT STUCK ON THE SAME KINDA PROBLEM BEFORE, TOO.
...

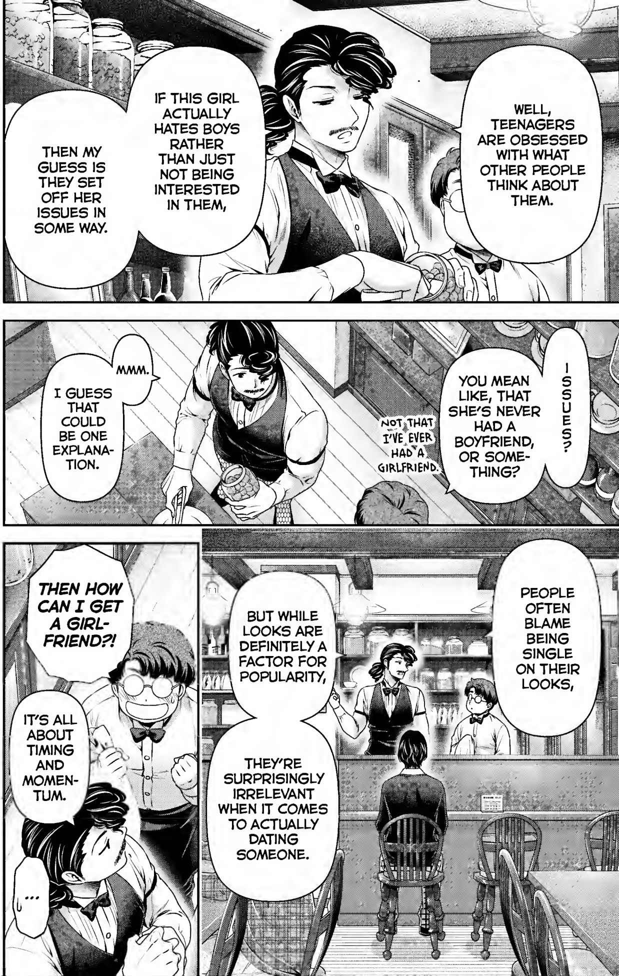

SHE COULD SAY SOMETHING...
WELL, SEE YA.
DON'T USE PEOPLE TO MAKE YOURSELF FEEL SUPERIOR.
?!
SU- SUPERIOR ?!
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON ANYONE'D TALK TO AN UGGO LIKE ME.
...!
OR WHAT,
TRYING TO RECRUIT ME FOR SOME RELIGION?
EITHER THAT OR YOU WANNA MAKE FUN OF ME. THAT'S THE ONLY THING GUYS THINK UGGOS ARE GOOD FOR.
DID YOU WANT TO POST, "I WAS NICE TO THIS UGLY GIRL, SO NOW SHE'S SUPER ATTACHED TO ME LOL," ON THE INTERNET OR SOMETHING?
TOO BAD.

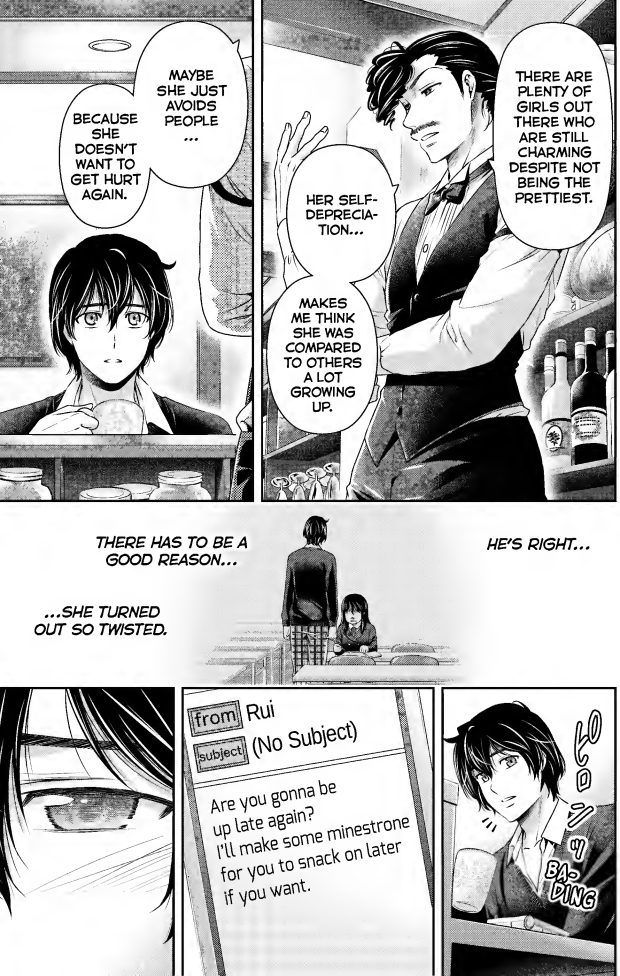

THE REASON YOU FIRST TALKED TO ME WAS BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT I WAS "SAFE," RIGHT?
LOOKING DOWN ON PEOPLE FOR HOW THEY LOOK IS DISGUSTING.
THIS IS WHY I HATE GUYS.
ASSHOLE!
GASP!!
!
WH-WHERE AM I?
OH.
DID YOU SNAP OUT OF IT?

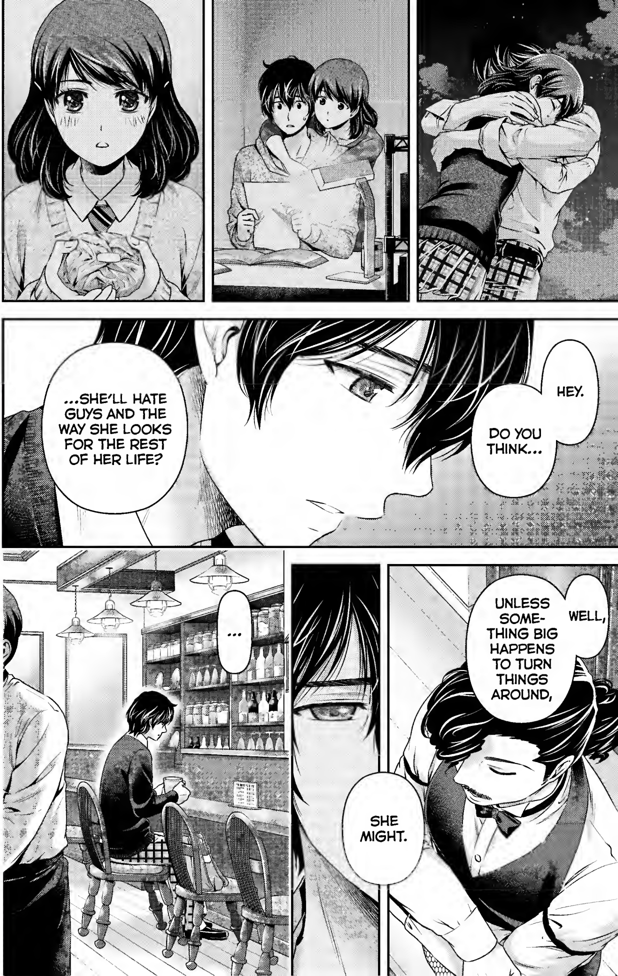

YOU'VE BEEN ZONED OUT EVER SINCE YOU CAME HOME.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
ABOUT 9...
NOPE. IT'S MIDNIGHT.
OUR PARENTS ALREADY WENT TO BED.
HUH...
I GUESS I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER GETTING CURSED TO HELL AND BACK.
HEY, AM I ...
...SOMEONE WHO LOOKS DOWN ON PEOPLE FOR HOW THEY LOOK?
FWIP
HUH? WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
I'M JUST WONDERING IF I SEEM THAT WAY ...
NO...
THAT NEVER REALLY OCCURRED TO ME.
じー
STA
RE

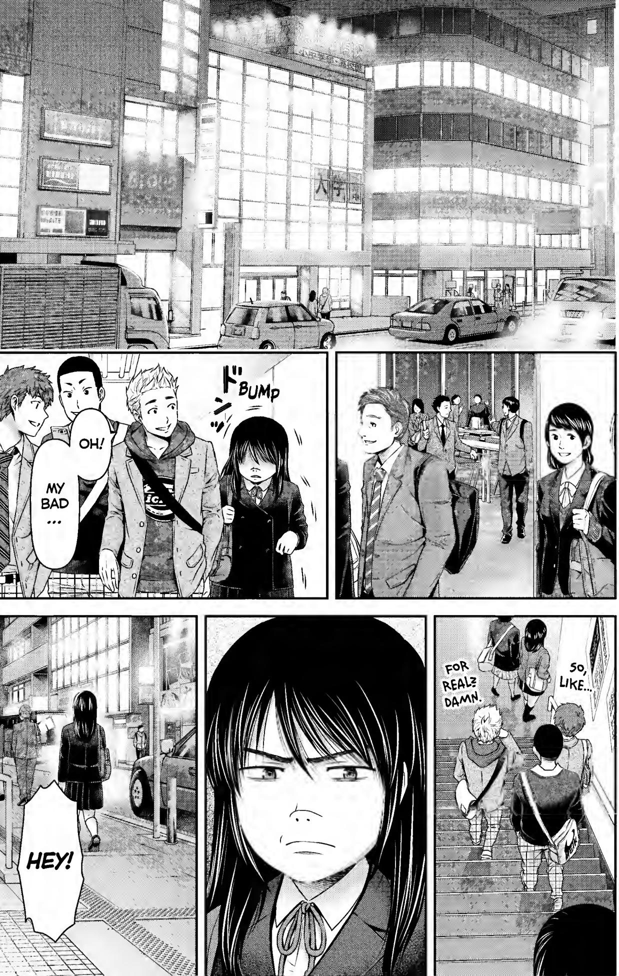

CUTE...
HUH?
BUT I'M SURE I DIDN'T FALL FOR YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE CUTE.
I MEAN, YOUR FACE IS CUTE, TOO, BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT.
THE WAY YOU TALK, ACT, YOUR HABITS.
I LIKE YOU BECAUSE OF ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKE YOU CUTE.
YEAH! I'M NOT THE KIND OF GUY WHO JUDGES PEOPLE BASED ON THEIR LOOKS!
...HUH?
WHAT'S WRONG?
DEATH BY EMBARRASSMENT.
IT'S NOTHING...

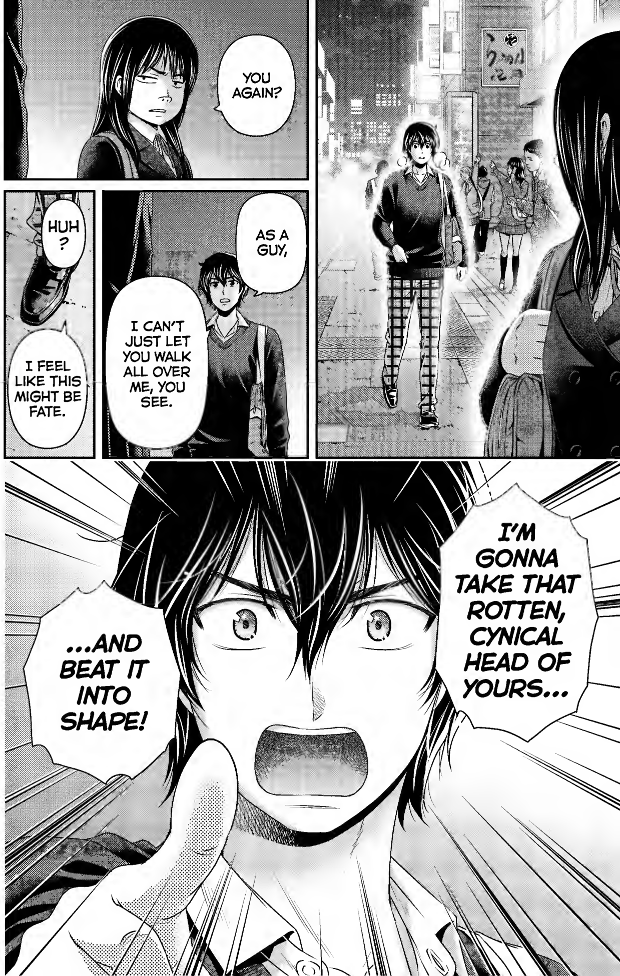

SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR L'AMANT
喫茶&BAR
FRESHNESS DOUGHNUTS
OPEN
SHE SAID THAT OUT OF NOWHERE.
I WAS BLINDSIDED.
PHEW.
SOUNDS LIKE THAT GIRL'S GOT ONE MAJOR PERSECUTION COMPLEX.
THERE ARE GUYS OUT THERE WHO DIS GIRLS BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT POPULAR,
BUT I DON'T HEAR ABOUT THE OPPOSITE MUCH.
JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW I'LL HAVE TO SEE HER IN CLASS AFTER THIS BUMS ME OUT...


WELL, TEENAGERS ARE OBSESSED WITH WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THEM.
IF THIS GIRL ACTUALLY HATES BOYS RATHER THAN JUST NOT BEING INTERESTED IN THEM,
THEN MY GUESS IS THEY SET OFF HER ISSUES IN SOME WAY.
ISSUES?
YOU MEAN LIKE, THAT SHE'S NEVER HAD A BOYFRIEND, OR SOMETHING?
NOT THAT I'VE EVER HAD A GIRLFRIEND.
MMM.
I GUESS THAT COULD BE ONE EXPLANATION.
PEOPLE OFTEN BLAME BEING SINGLE ON THEIR LOOKS,
BUT WHILE LOOKS ARE DEFINITELY A FACTOR FOR POPULARITY,
THEY'RE SURPRISINGLY IRRELEVANT WHEN IT COMES TO ACTUALLY DATING SOMEONE.
THEN HOW CAN I GET A GIRLFRIEND?!
IT'S ALL ABOUT TIMING AND MOMENTUM.
...

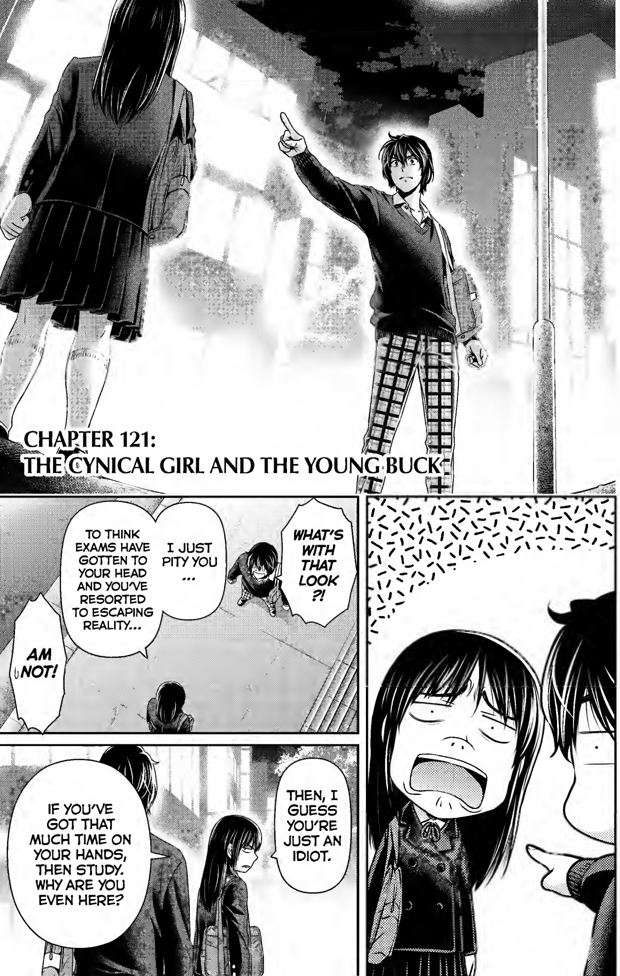

THERE ARE PLENTY OF GIRLS OUT THERE WHO ARE STILL CHARMING DESPITE NOT BEING THE PRETTIEST.
HER SELF-DEPRECIATION...
MAKES ME THINK SHE WAS COMPARED TO OTHERS A LOT GROWING UP.
MAYBE SHE JUST AVOIDS PEOPLE...
BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GET HURT AGAIN.
HE'S RIGHT...
THERE HAS TO BE A GOOD REASON...
...SHE TURNED OUT SO TWISTED.
BA-DING
from Rui
subject (No Subject)
Are you gonna be up late again? I'll make some minestrone for you to snack on later if you want.

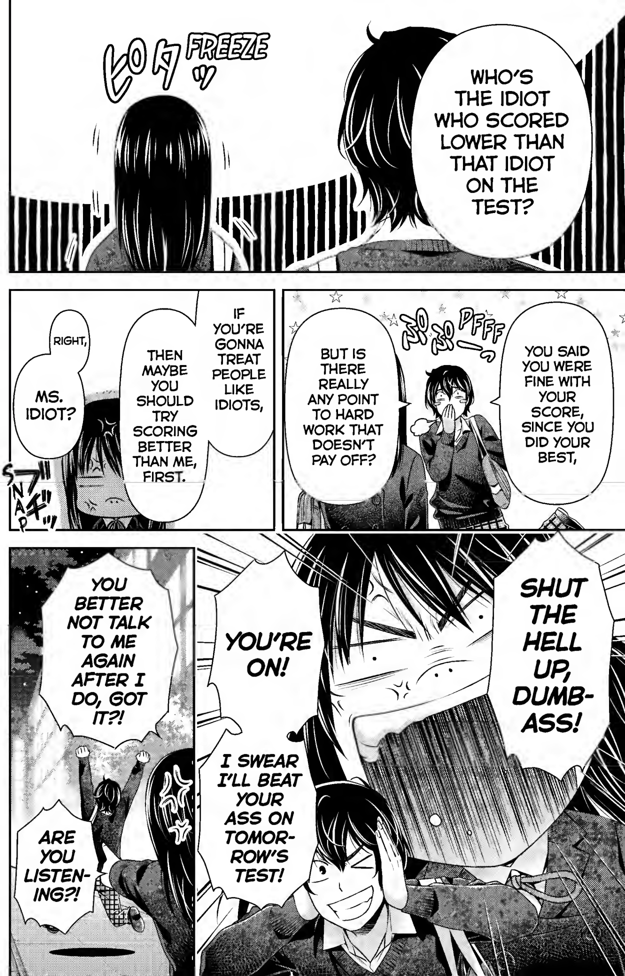

HEY.
DO YOU THINK...
...SHE'LL HATE GUYS AND THE WAY SHE LOOKS FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE?
WELL,
UNLESS SOMETHING BIG HAPPENS TO TURN THINGS AROUND,
SHE MIGHT.
...

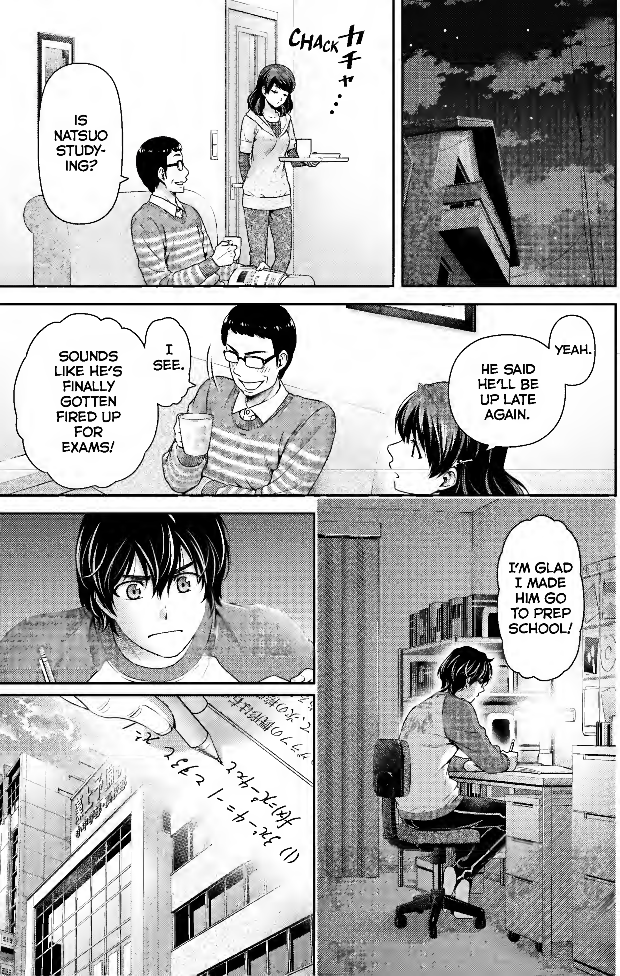

ド
BUMP
OH!
MY BAD ...
SO, LIKE...
FOR REAL? DAMN.
HEY!

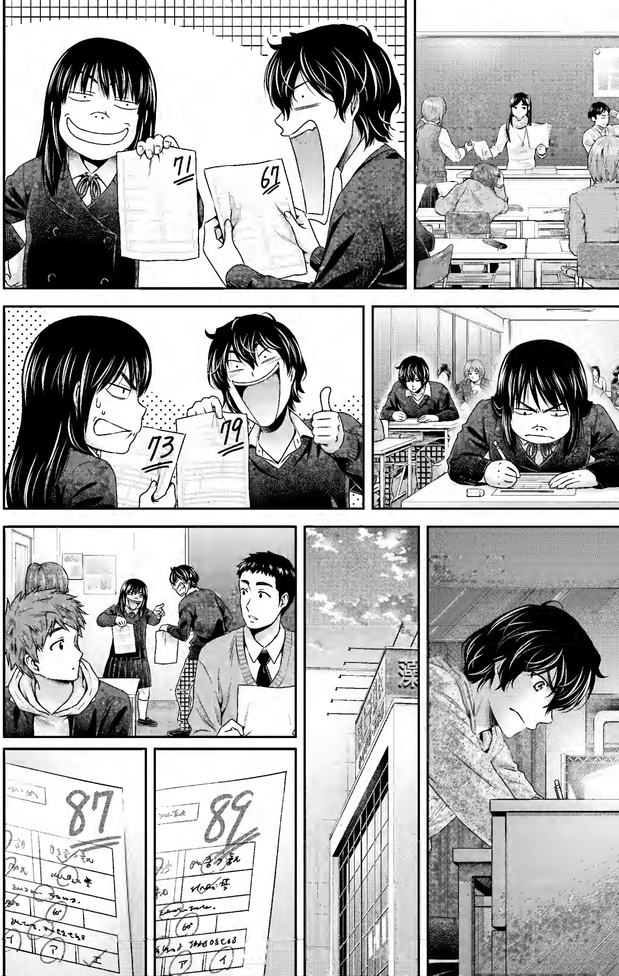

YOU AGAIN?
AS A GUY,
I CAN'T JUST LET YOU WALK ALL OVER ME, YOU SEE.
HUH?
I FEEL LIKE THIS MIGHT BE FATE.
I'M GONNA TAKE THAT ROTTEN, CYNICAL HEAD OF YOURS...
...AND BEAT IT INTO SHAPE!

CHAPTER 121:
THE CYNICAL GIRL AND THE YOUNG BUCK


WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK ?!
I JUST PITY YOU ...
TO THINK EXAMS HAVE GOTTEN TO YOUR HEAD AND YOU'VE RESORTED TO ESCAPING REALITY...
AM NOT!
THEN, I GUESS YOU'RE JUST AN IDIOT.
IF YOU'VE GOT THAT MUCH TIME ON YOUR HANDS, THEN STUDY. WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?


WHO'S THE IDIOT WHO SCORED LOWER THAN THAT IDIOT ON THE TEST?
ピタッ FREEZE
YOU SAID YOU WERE FINE WITH YOUR SCORE, SINCE YOU DID YOUR BEST,
ぷぷーっ PFFF
BUT IS THERE REALLY ANY POINT TO HARD WORK THAT DOESN'T PAY OFF?
IF YOU'RE GONNA TREAT PEOPLE LIKE IDIOTS,
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY SCORING BETTER THAN ME, FIRST.
RIGHT,
MS. IDIOT?
ブチッ SNAP
SHUT THE HELL UP, DUMBASS!
YOU'RE ON!
I SWEAR I'LL BEAT YOUR ASS ON TOMORROW'S TEST!
YOU BETTER NOT TALK TO ME AGAIN AFTER I DO, GOT IT?!
ARE YOU LISTENING?!


CHACK カチャ…
IS NATSUO STUDYING?
YEAH.
HE SAID HE'LL BE UP LATE AGAIN.
I SEE.
SOUNDS LIKE HE'S FINALLY GOTTEN FIRED UP FOR EXAMS!
I'M GLAD I MADE HIM GO TO PREP SCHOOL!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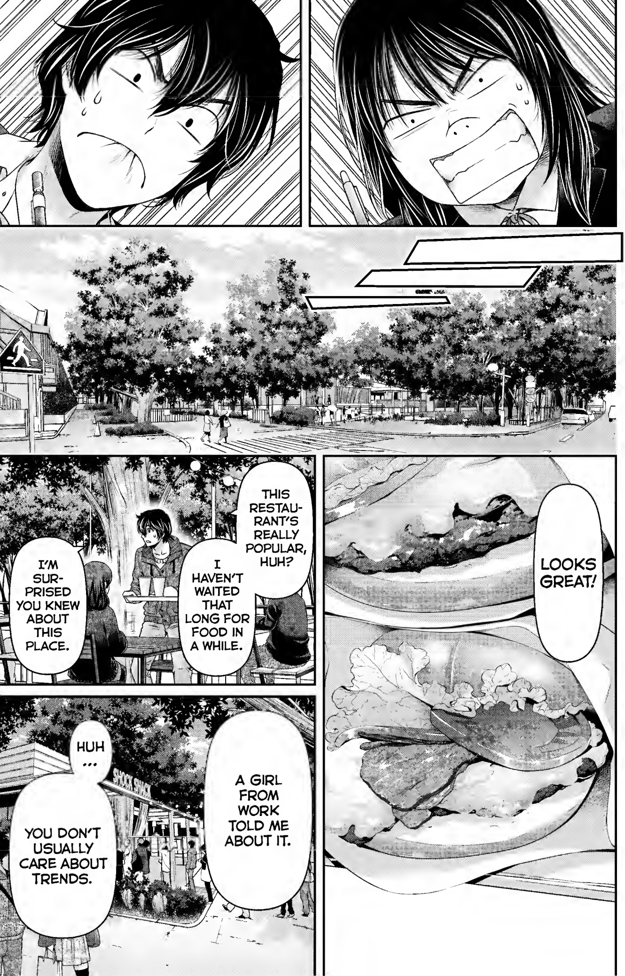
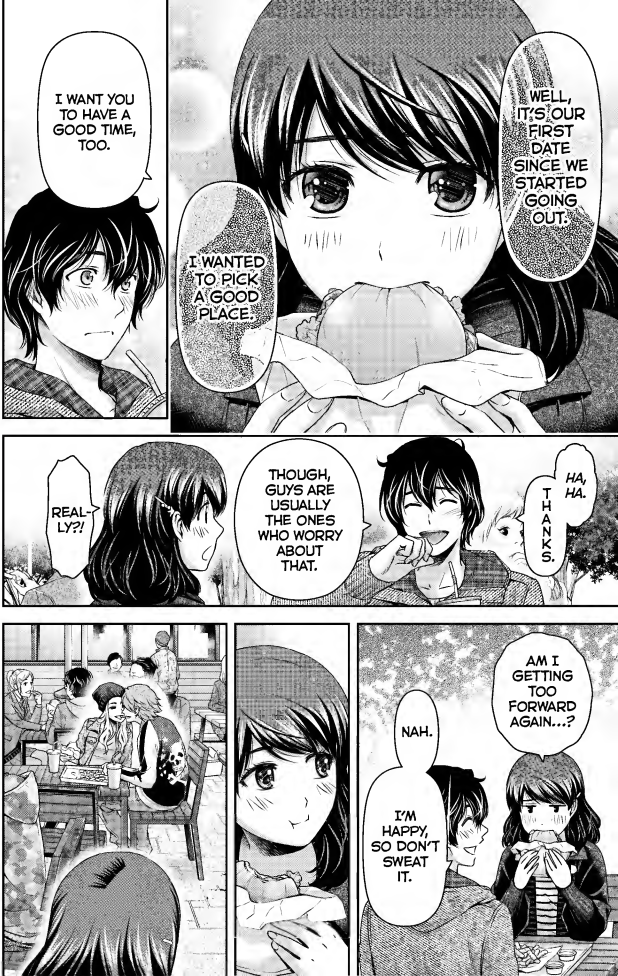
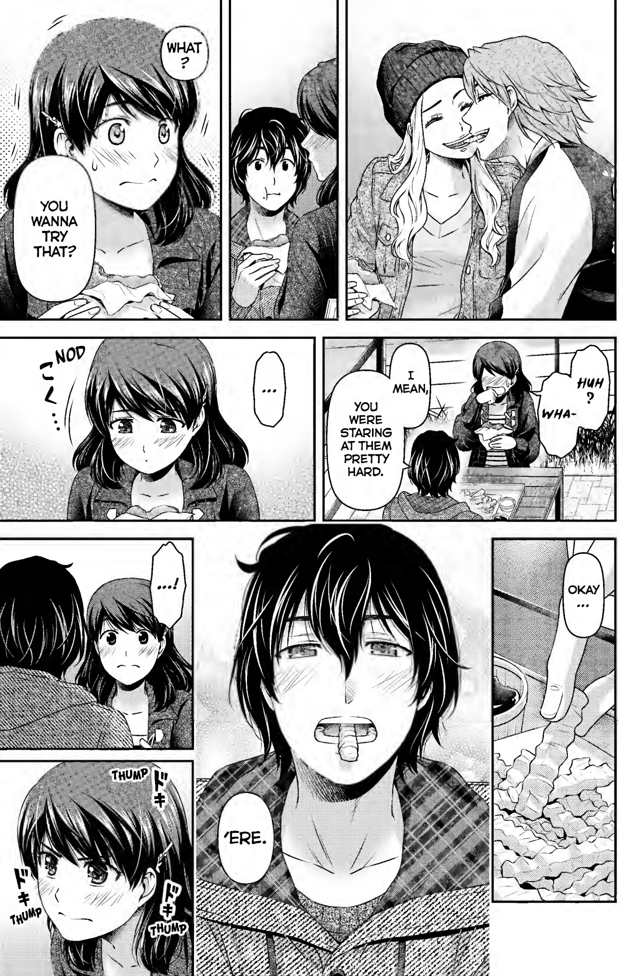
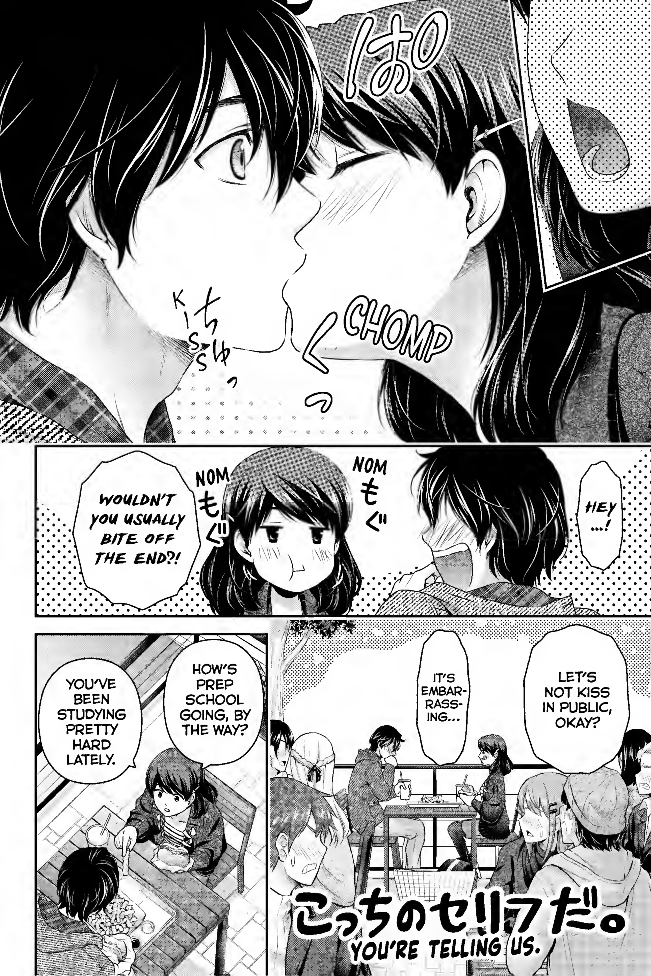
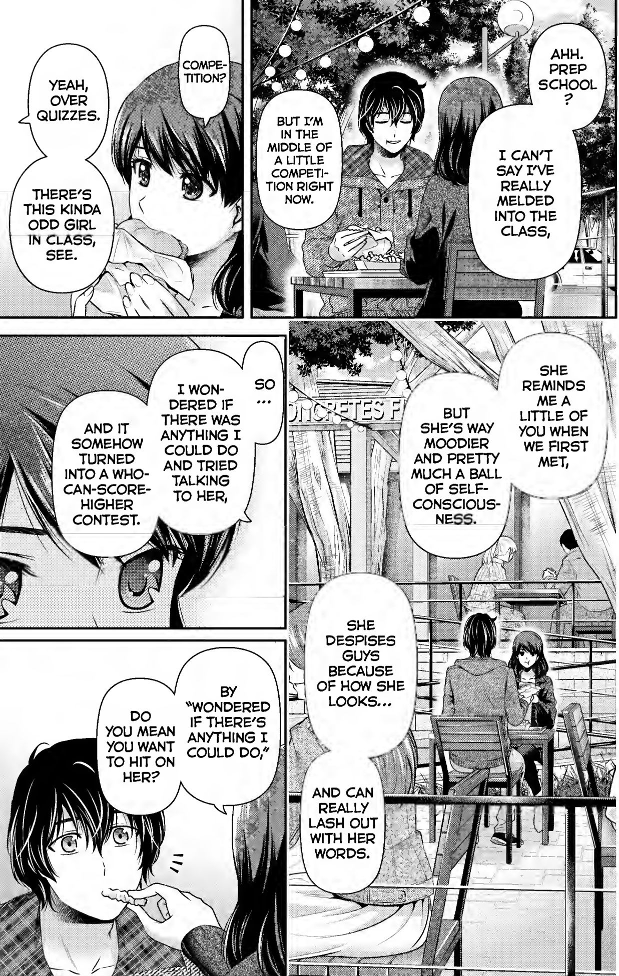
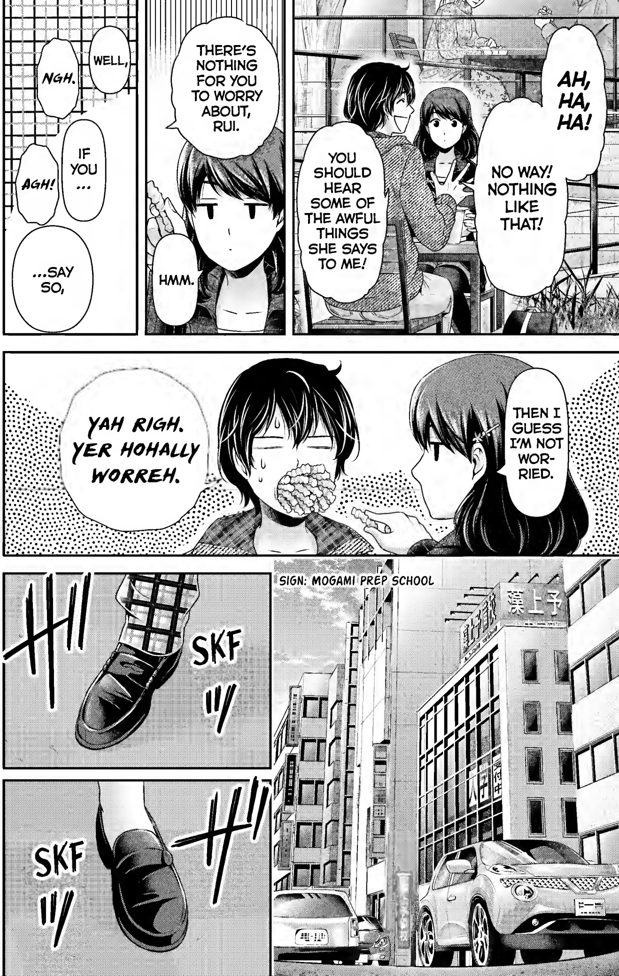

LOOKS GREAT!
THIS RESTAURANT'S REALLY POPULAR, HUH?
I HAVEN'T WAITED THAT LONG FOR FOOD IN A WHILE.
I'M SURPRISED YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS PLACE.
A GIRL FROM WORK TOLD ME ABOUT IT.
SHOCK SHACK
HUH...
YOU DON'T USUALLY CARE ABOUT TRENDS.

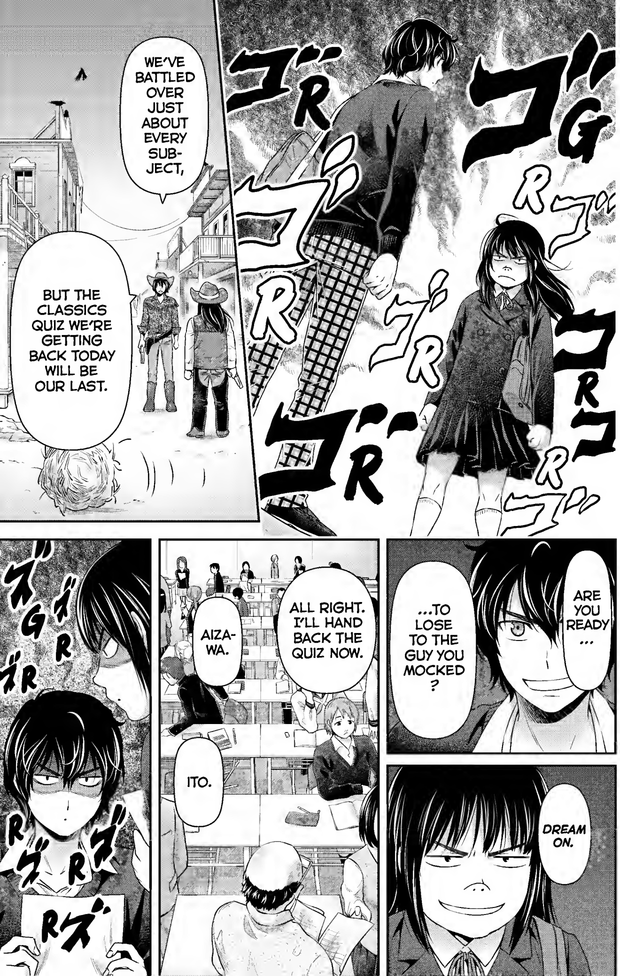

WELL, IT'S OUR FIRST DATE SINCE WE STARTED GOING OUT.
I WANTED TO PICK A GOOD PLACE.
I WANT YOU TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, TOO.
HA, HA.
THANKS.
THOUGH, GUYS ARE USUALLY THE ONES WHO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
REALLY?!
AM I GETTING TOO FORWARD AGAIN...?
NAH.
I'M HAPPY, SO DON'T SWEAT IT.

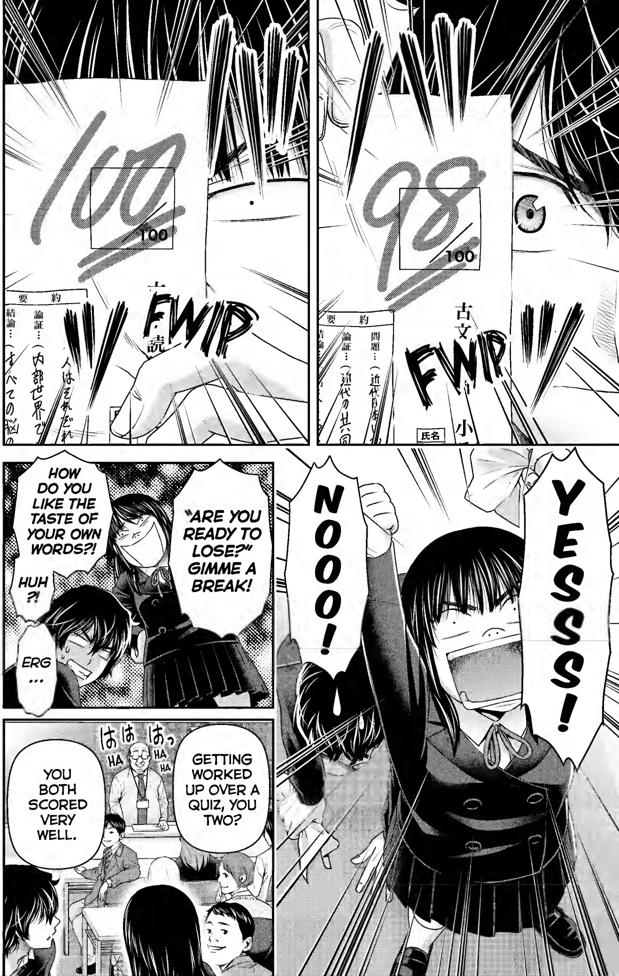

WHAT ?
YOU WANNA TRY THAT?
HUH ?
WHA-
I MEAN,
YOU WERE STARING AT THEM PRETTY HARD.
...
NOD
こく...
OKAY ...
'ERE.
...!
THUMP ドキ
THUMP ドキ
THUMP ドキ

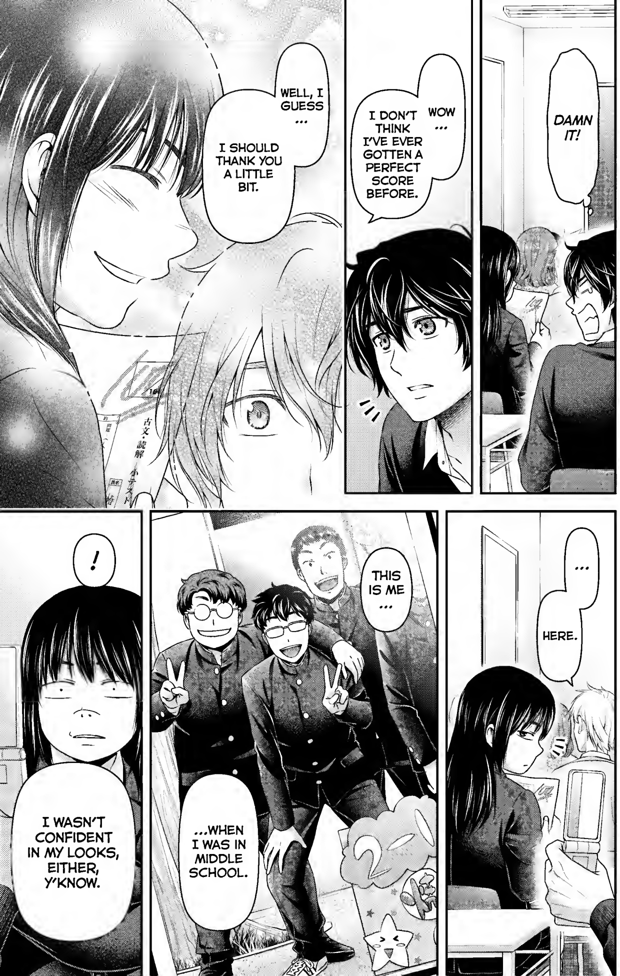

はむ
くっ
CHOMP
ちゅっ
KISS
HEY ...!
もぐ
NOM
もぐ
NOM
WOULDN'T YOU USUALLY BITE OFF THE END?!
LET'S NOT KISS IN PUBLIC, OKAY?
IT'S EMBARRASSING...
こっちのセリフだ。
YOU'RE TELLING US.
HOW'S PREP SCHOOL GOING, BY THE WAY?
YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING PRETTY HARD LATELY.

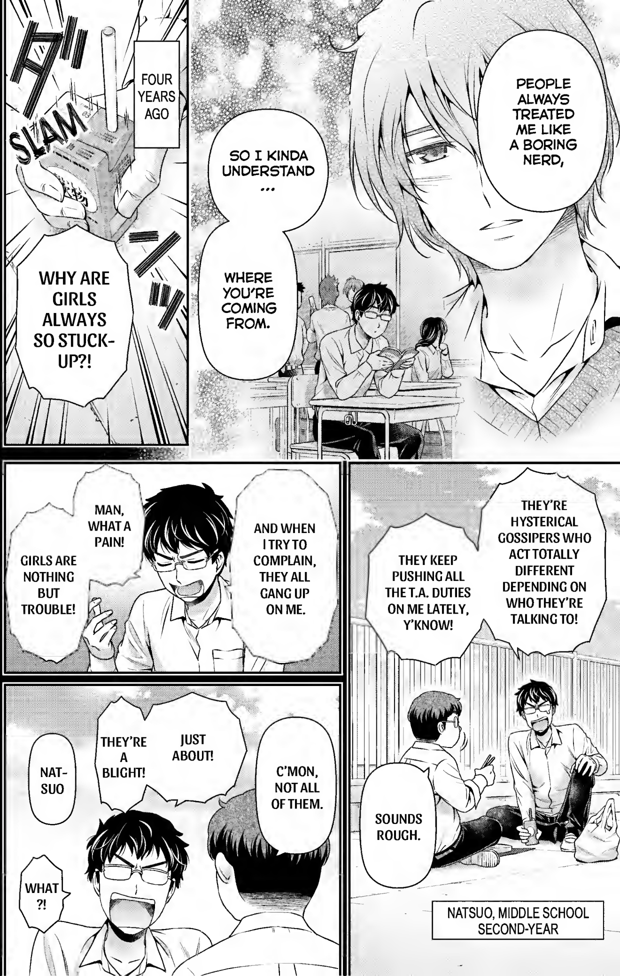

AHH. PREP SCHOOL?
I CAN'T SAY I'VE REALLY MELDED INTO THE CLASS,
BUT I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A LITTLE COMPETITION RIGHT NOW.
COMPETITION?
YEAH, OVER QUIZZES.
THERE'S THIS KINDA ODD GIRL IN CLASS, SEE.
SHE REMINDS ME A LITTLE OF YOU WHEN WE FIRST MET,
BUT SHE'S WAY MOODIER AND PRETTY MUCH A BALL OF SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS.
SHE DESPISES GUYS BECAUSE OF HOW SHE LOOKS...
AND CAN REALLY LASH OUT WITH HER WORDS.
SO...
I WONDERED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING I COULD DO AND TRIED TALKING TO HER,
AND IT SOMEHOW TURNED INTO A WHO-CAN-SCORE-HIGHER CONTEST.
BY "WONDERED IF THERE'S ANYTHING I COULD DO,"
DO YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO HIT ON HER?

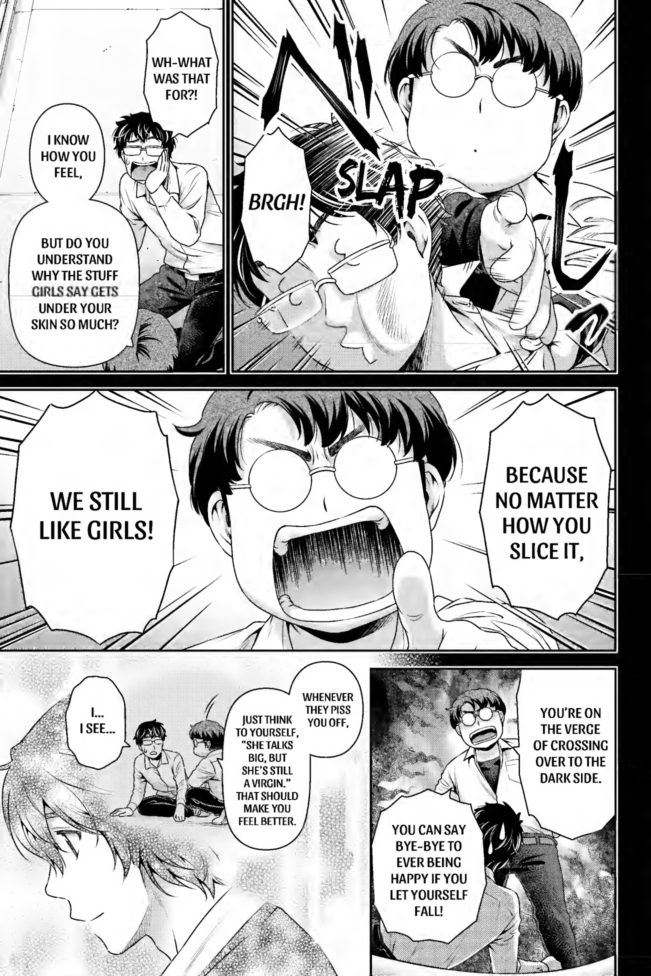

AH, HA, HA!
NO WAY! NOTHING LIKE THAT!
YOU SHOULD HEAR SOME OF THE AWFUL THINGS SHE SAYS TO ME!
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT, RUI.
HMM.
WELL,
NGH.
IF YOU...
AGH!
...SAY SO,
THEN I GUESS I'M NOT WORRIED.
YAH RIGH. YER HOHALLY WORREH.
SIGN: MOGAMI PREP SCHOOL
藻上予
SKF
SKF

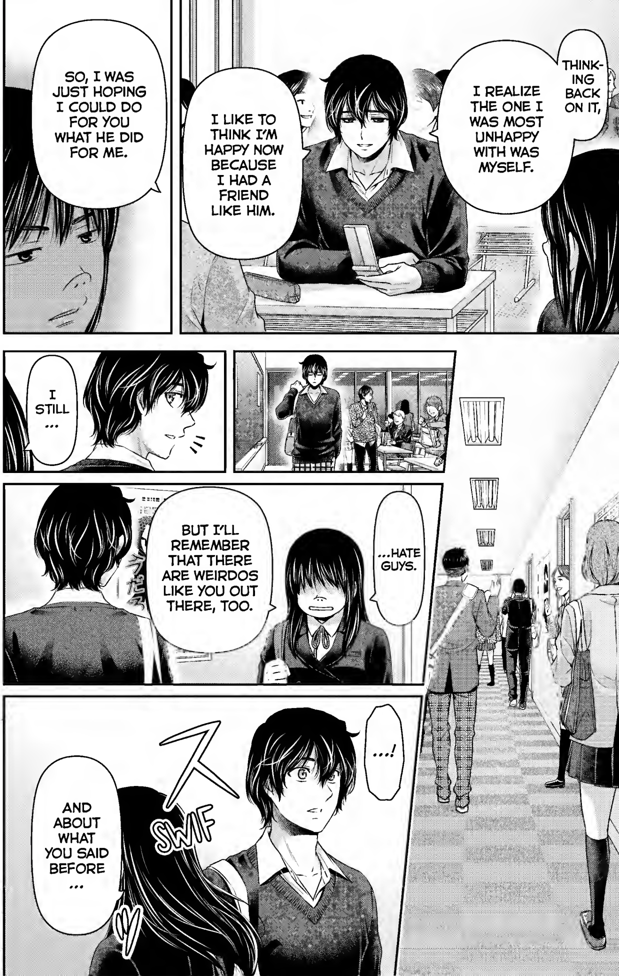

ゴG R ゴ R ゴ R
ゴ R ゴ R ゴ R ゴ R
WE'VE BATTLED OVER JUST ABOUT EVERY SUBJECT,
BUT THE CLASSICS QUIZ WE'RE GETTING BACK TODAY WILL BE OUR LAST.
ARE YOU READY...
...TO LOSE TO THE GUY YOU MOCKED?
DREAM ON.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL HAND BACK THE QUIZ NOW.
AIZAWA.
ITO.
ズG R ズ R
R ヅ R ズ Rズ

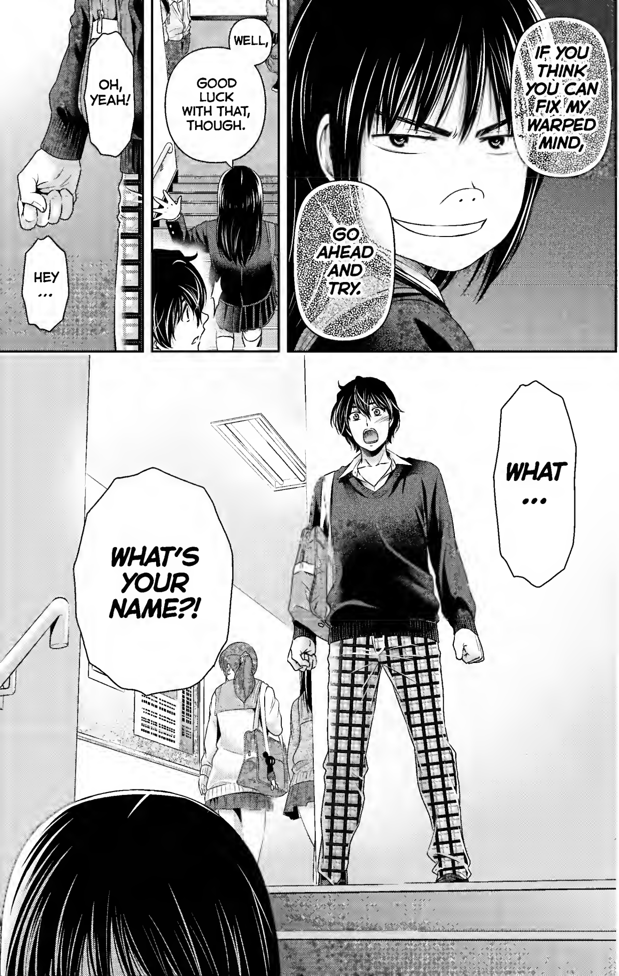

98
100
古文
FWIP
要約
問題…（近代的
論証…（近代の共同
結論
氏名
小
100
100
FWIP
要約
人はそれぞれ
論証…（内部世界で
結論…（すべての脳の
読
YESS!
NOOOO!
"ARE YOU READY TO LOSE?" GIMME A BREAK!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THE TASTE OF YOUR OWN WORDS?!
HUH?!
ERG...
ははは
HA HA HA
GETTING WORKED UP OVER A QUIZ, YOU TWO?
YOU BOTH SCORED VERY WELL.

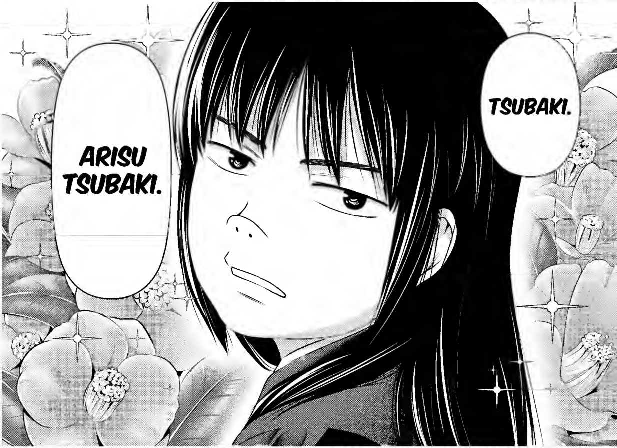

DAMN IT!
WOW...
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER GOTTEN A PERFECT SCORE BEFORE.
WELL, I GUESS...
I SHOULD THANK YOU A LITTLE BIT.
古文・読解 小テスト
...
HERE.
THIS IS ME...
...WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
!
I WASN'T CONFIDENT IN MY LOOKS, EITHER, Y'KNOW.

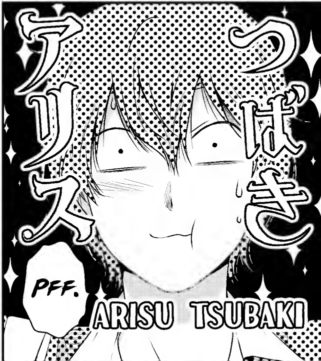

PEOPLE ALWAYS TREATED ME LIKE A BORING NERD,
SO I KINDA UNDERSTAND ...
WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM.
FOUR YEARS AGO
SLAM
WHY ARE GIRLS ALWAYS SO STUCK-UP?!
THEY'RE HYSTERICAL GOSSIPERS WHO ACT TOTALLY DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON WHO THEY'RE TALKING TO!
THEY KEEP PUSHING ALL THE T.A. DUTIES ON ME LATELY, Y'KNOW!
SOUNDS ROUGH.
NATSUO, MIDDLE SCHOOL SECOND-YEAR
AND WHEN I TRY TO COMPLAIN, THEY ALL GANG UP ON ME.
MAN, WHAT A PAIN!
GIRLS ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
C'MON, NOT ALL OF THEM.
JUST ABOUT!
THEY'RE A BLIGHT!
NAT-SUO
WHAT?!

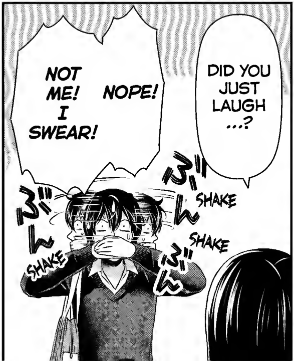

SLAP
BRGH!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL,
BUT DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY THE STUFF GIRLS SAY GETS UNDER YOUR SKIN SO MUCH?
BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW YOU SLICE IT,
WE STILL LIKE GIRLS!
YOU'RE ON THE VERGE OF CROSSING OVER TO THE DARK SIDE.
YOU CAN SAY BYE-BYE TO EVER BEING HAPPY IF YOU LET YOURSELF FALL!
WHENEVER THEY PISS YOU OFF,
JUST THINK TO YOURSELF, "SHE TALKS BIG, BUT SHE'S STILL A VIRGIN." THAT SHOULD MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
I... I SEE...

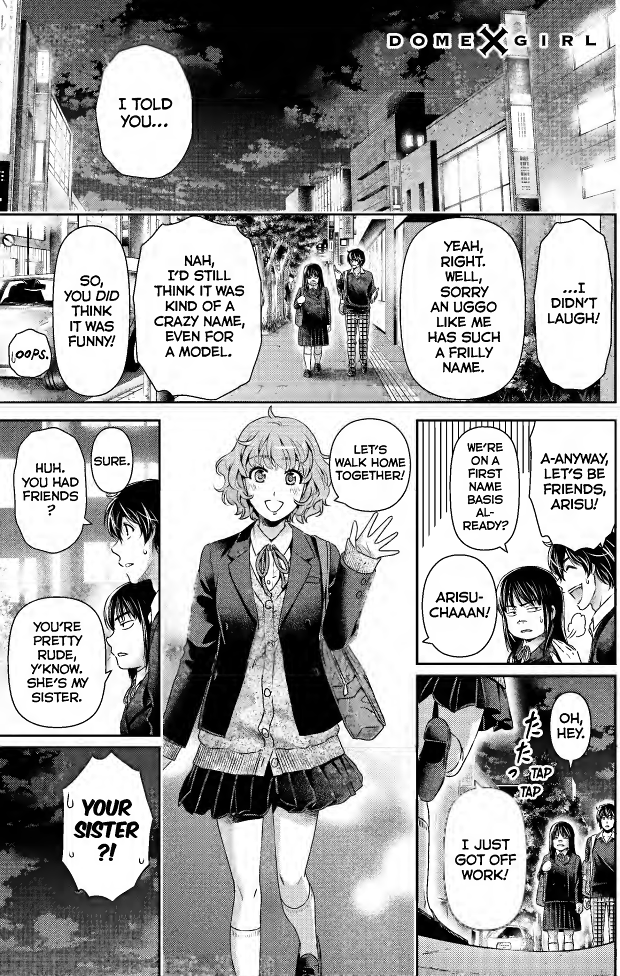

THINKING BACK ON IT,
I REALIZE THE ONE I WAS MOST UNHAPPY WITH WAS MYSELF.
I LIKE TO THINK I'M HAPPY NOW BECAUSE I HAD A FRIEND LIKE HIM.
SO, I WAS JUST HOPING I COULD DO FOR YOU WHAT HE DID FOR ME.
I STILL ...
...HATE GUYS.
BUT I'LL REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE WEIRDOS LIKE YOU OUT THERE, TOO.
...!
ス
SWIF
AND ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE ...

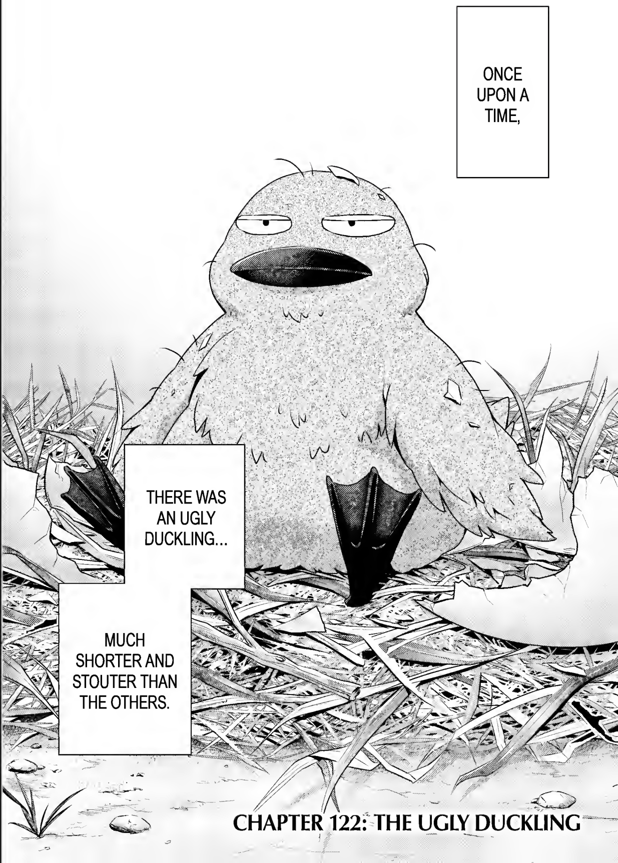

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN FIX MY WARPED MIND,
GO AHEAD AND TRY.
WELL,
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT, THOUGH.
OH, YEAH!
HEY ...
WHAT ...
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?!


TSUBAKI.
ARISU TSUBAKI.

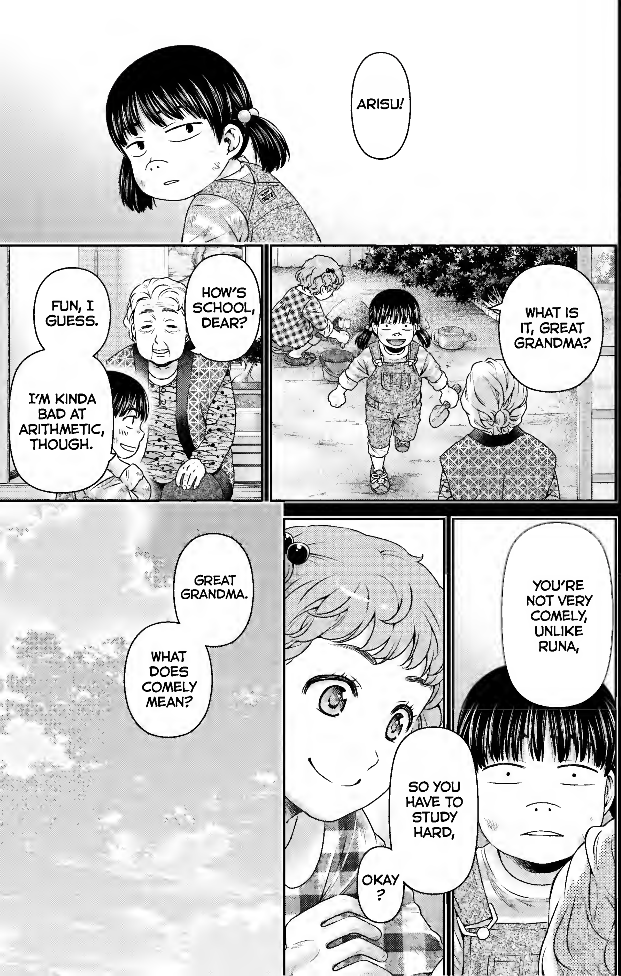

つばきアリス
PFF.
ARISU TSUBAKI

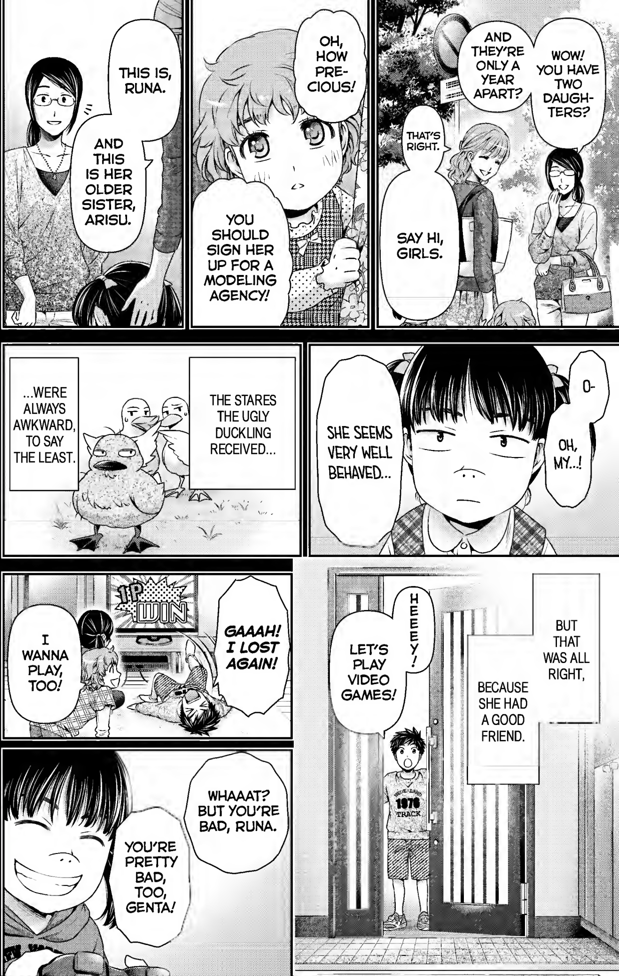

DID YOU JUST LAUGH ...?
NOPE!
NOT ME! I SWEAR!
ぶん SHAKE
ぶん SHAKE
ぶん SHAKE

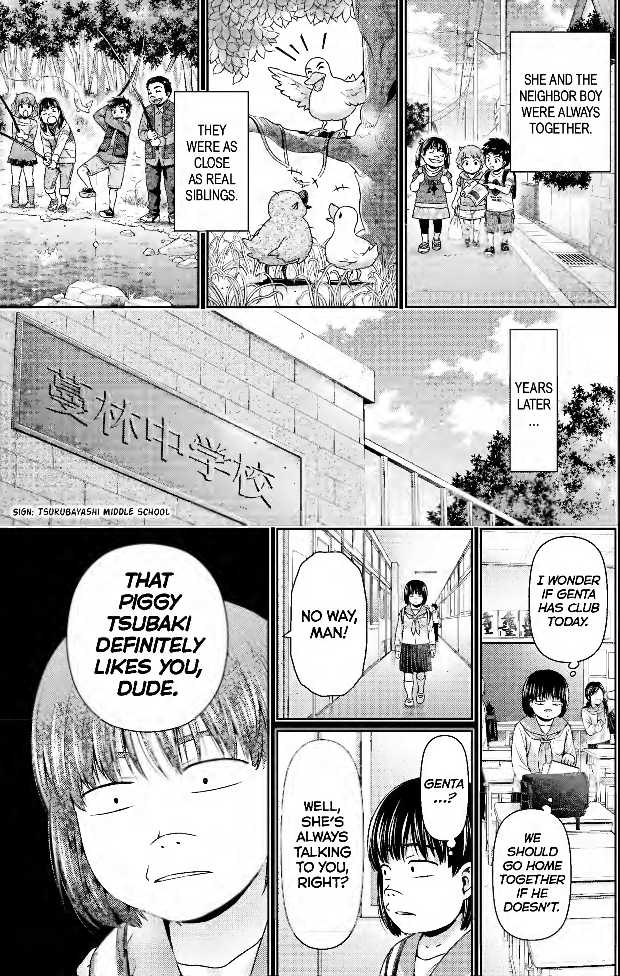

I TOLD YOU...
...I DIDN'T LAUGH!
YEAH, RIGHT. WELL, SORRY AN UGGO LIKE ME HAS SUCH A FRILLY NAME.
NAH, I'D STILL THINK IT WAS KIND OF A CRAZY NAME, EVEN FOR A MODEL.
SO, YOU *DID* THINK IT WAS FUNNY!
OOPS.
A-ANYWAY, LET'S BE FRIENDS, ARISU!
WE'RE ON A FIRST NAME BASIS ALREADY?
ARISU-CHAAAN!
OH, HEY.
たたっ
TAP TAP
I JUST GOT OFF WORK!
LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER!
SURE.
HUH. YOU HAD FRIENDS?
YOU'RE PRETTY RUDE, Y'KNOW. SHE'S MY SISTER.
YOUR SISTER?!

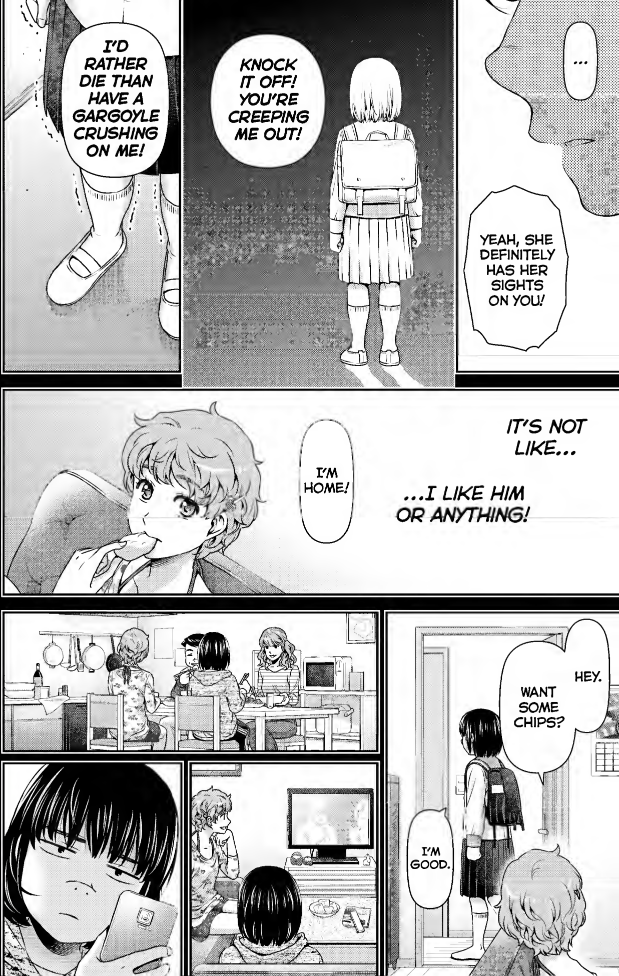

ONCE UPON A TIME,
THERE WAS AN UGLY DUCKLING...
MUCH SHORTER AND STOUTER THAN THE OTHERS.

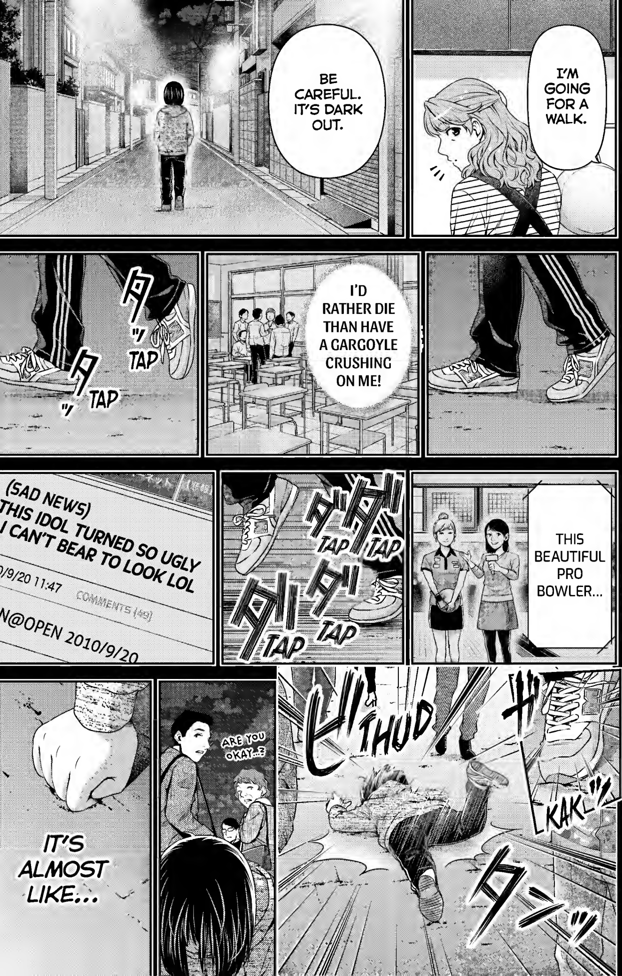
CHAPTER 122: THE UGLY DUCKLING

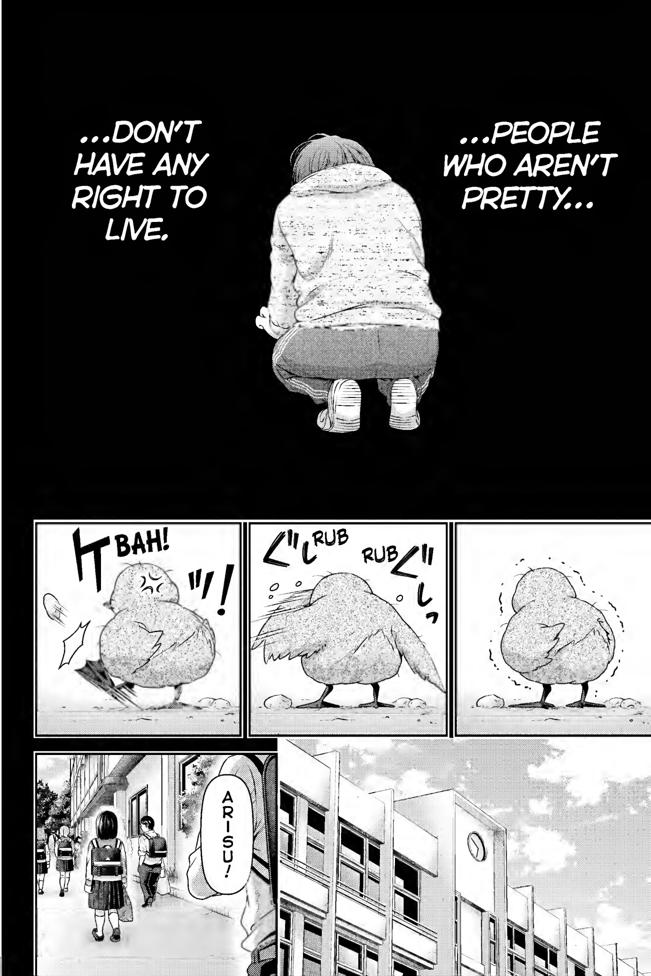

ARISU!
WHAT IS IT, GREAT GRANDMA?
HOW'S SCHOOL, DEAR?
FUN, I GUESS.
I'M KINDA BAD AT ARITHMETIC, THOUGH.
YOU'RE NOT VERY COMELY, UNLIKE RUNA,
SO YOU HAVE TO STUDY HARD,
OKAY?
GREAT GRANDMA.
WHAT DOES COMELY MEAN?

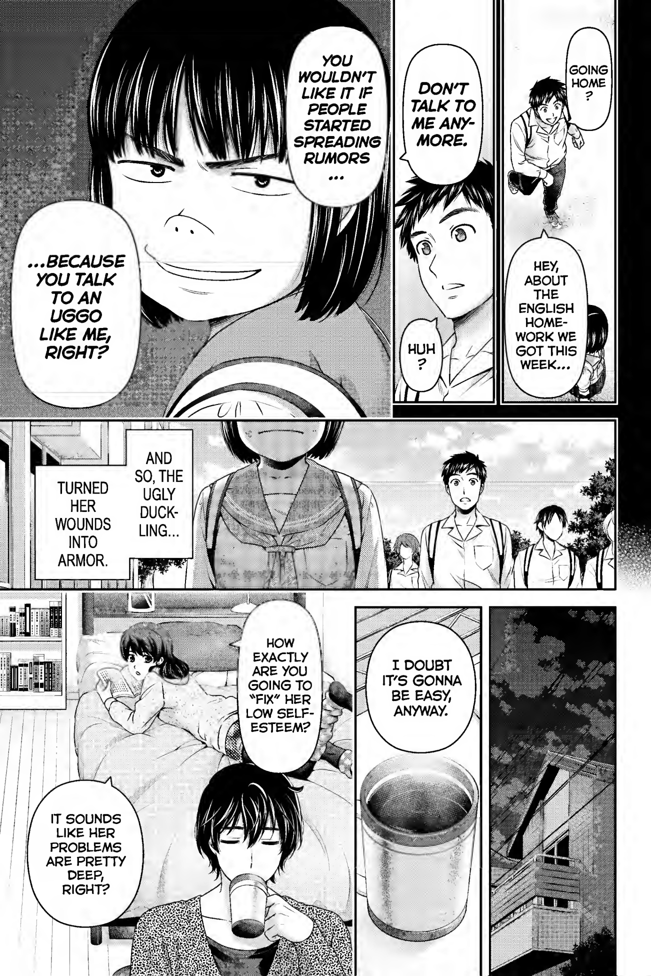

WOW! YOU HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS?
AND THEY'RE ONLY A YEAR APART?
THAT'S RIGHT.
SAY HI, GIRLS.
OH, HOW PRECIOUS!
YOU SHOULD SIGN HER UP FOR A MODELING AGENCY!
THIS IS, RUNA.
AND THIS IS HER OLDER SISTER, ARISU.
O- OH, MY...!
SHE SEEMS VERY WELL BEHAVED...
THE STARES THE UGLY DUCKLING RECEIVED...
...WERE ALWAYS AWKWARD, TO SAY THE LEAST.
BUT THAT WAS ALL RIGHT,
BECAUSE SHE HAD A GOOD FRIEND.
HEEEEY!
LET'S PLAY VIDEO GAMES!
1976 TRACK
1P WIN
GAAAH! I LOST AGAIN!
I WANNA PLAY, TOO!
WHAAAT? BUT YOU'RE BAD, RUNA.
YOU'RE PRETTY BAD, TOO, GENTA!

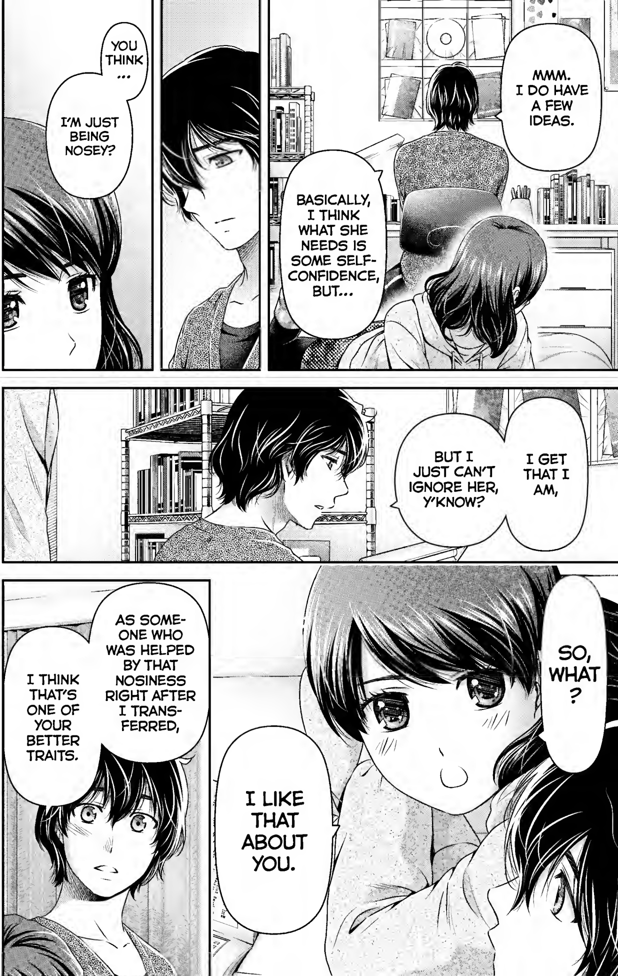

SHE AND THE NEIGHBOR BOY WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
THEY WERE AS CLOSE AS REAL SIBLINGS.
YEARS LATER ...
蔓林中学校
SIGN: TSURUBAYASHI MIDDLE SCHOOL
I WONDER IF GENTA HAS CLUB TODAY.
WE SHOULD GO HOME TOGETHER IF HE DOESN'T.
NO WAY, MAN!
GENTA ...?
WELL, SHE'S ALWAYS TALKING TO YOU, RIGHT?
THAT PIGGY TSUBAKI DEFINITELY LIKES YOU, DUDE.

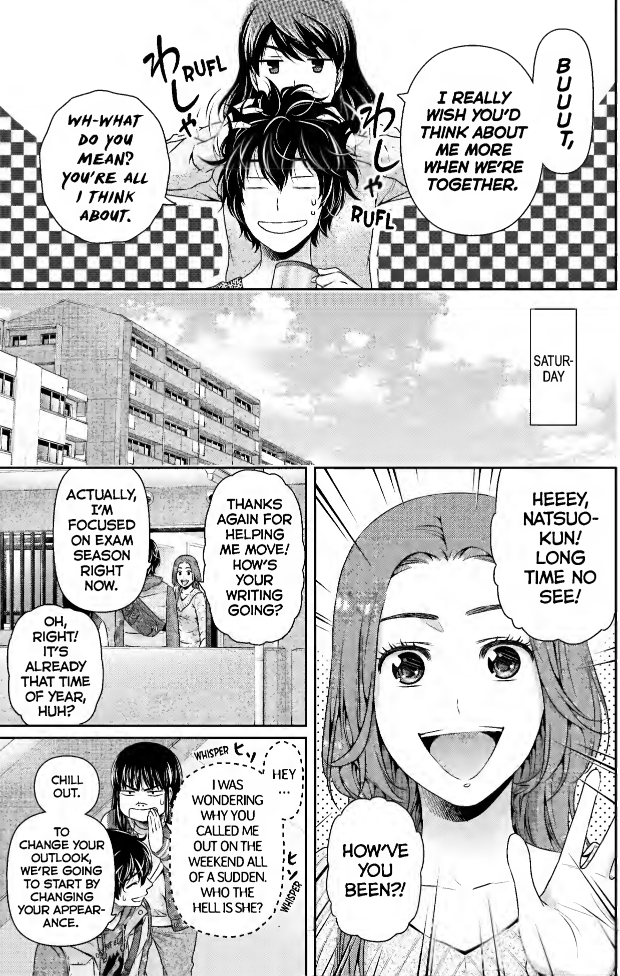

...
YEAH, SHE DEFINITELY HAS HER SIGHTS ON YOU!
KNOCK IT OFF! YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT!
I'D RATHER DIE THAN HAVE A GARGOYLE CRUSHING ON ME!
IT'S NOT LIKE...
...I LIKE HIM OR ANYTHING!
I'M HOME!
HEY.
WANT SOME CHIPS?
I'M GOOD.

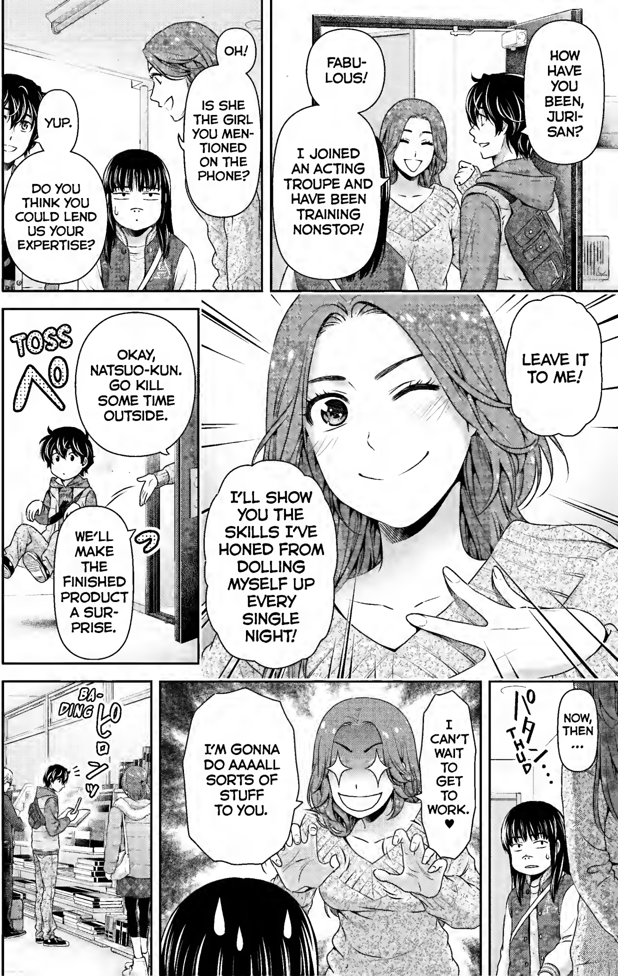

I'M GOING FOR A WALK.
BE CAREFUL. IT'S DARK OUT.
I'D RATHER DIE THAN HAVE A GARGOYLE CRUSHING ON ME!
タッ TAP
タッ TAP
THIS BEAUTIFUL PRO BOWLER...
ダッ TAP
ダッ TAP
ダッ TAP
ダッ TAP
(SAD NEWS)
THIS IDOL TURNED SO UGLY
I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK LOL
0/9/20 11:47
COMMENTS (49)
N@OPEN 2010/9/20
ガッ KAK
ビ THUD
タンッ
ARE YOU OKAY...?
IT'S ALMOST LIKE...

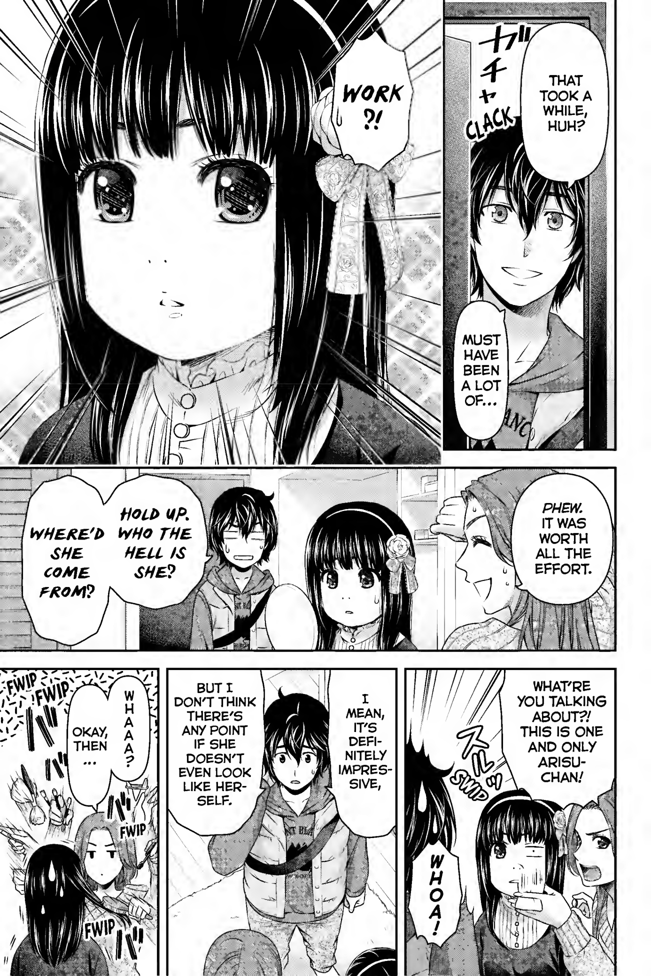

...PEOPLE WHO AREN'T PRETTY...
...DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT TO LIVE.
RUB RUB
BAH!
ARISU!

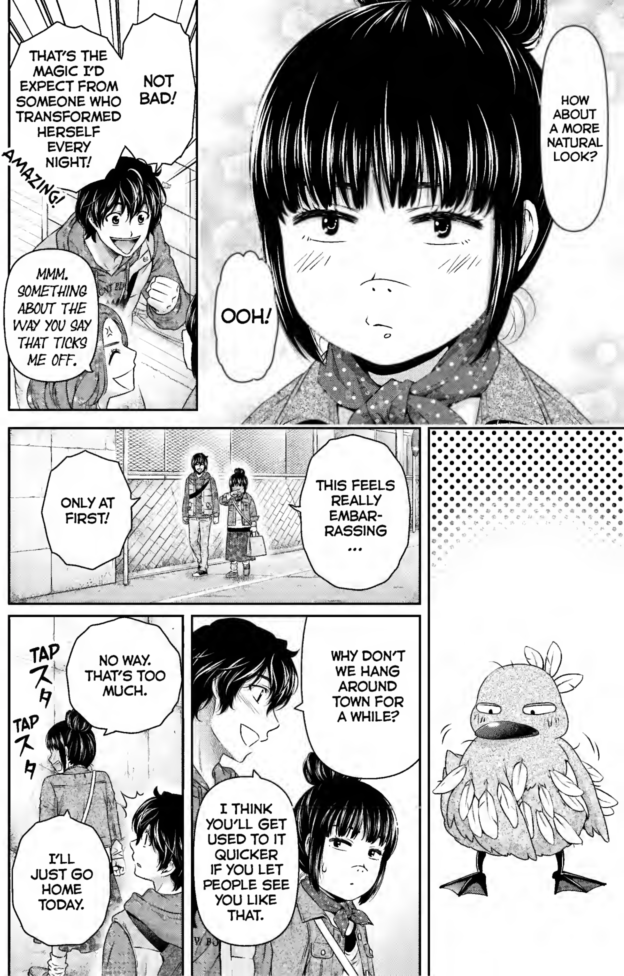

GOING HOME?
HEY, ABOUT THE ENGLISH HOMEWORK WE GOT THIS WEEK...
DON'T TALK TO ME ANYMORE.
HUH?
YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT IF PEOPLE STARTED SPREADING RUMORS...
...BECAUSE YOU TALK TO AN UGGO LIKE ME, RIGHT?
AND SO, THE UGLY DUCKLING...
TURNED HER WOUNDS INTO ARMOR.
I DOUBT IT'S GONNA BE EASY, ANYWAY.
HOW EXACTLY ARE YOU GOING TO "FIX" HER LOW SELF-ESTEEM?
IT SOUNDS LIKE HER PROBLEMS ARE PRETTY DEEP, RIGHT?

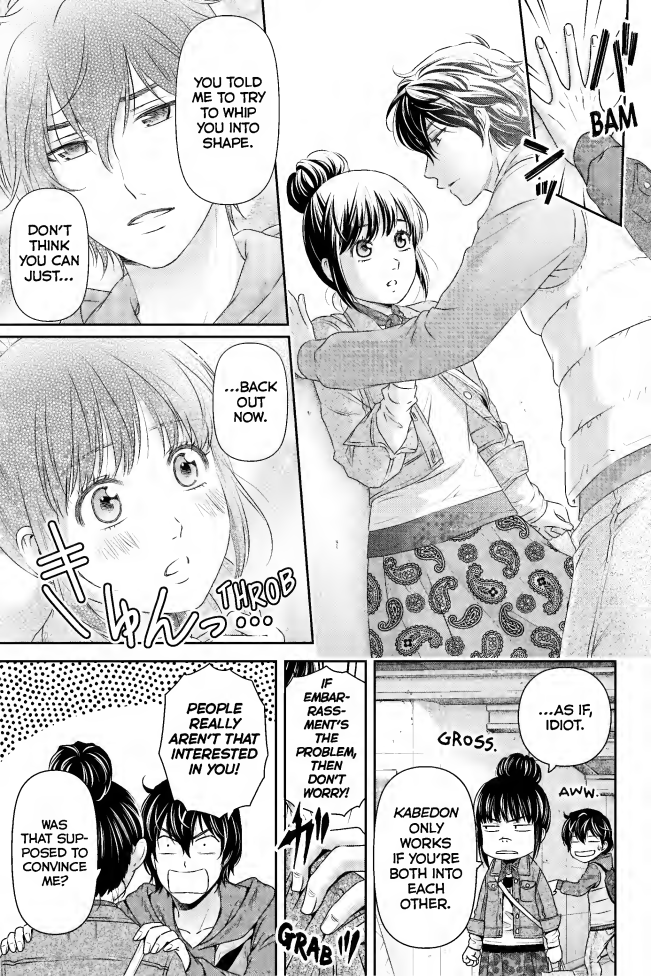

MMM. I DO HAVE A FEW IDEAS.
BASICALLY, I THINK WHAT SHE NEEDS IS SOME SELF-CONFIDENCE, BUT...
YOU THINK...
I'M JUST BEING NOSEY?
I GET THAT I AM,
BUT I JUST CAN'T IGNORE HER, Y'KNOW?
SO, WHAT?
AS SOMEONE WHO WAS HELPED BY THAT NOSINESS RIGHT AFTER I TRANSFERRED,
I THINK THAT'S ONE OF YOUR BETTER TRAITS.
I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU.

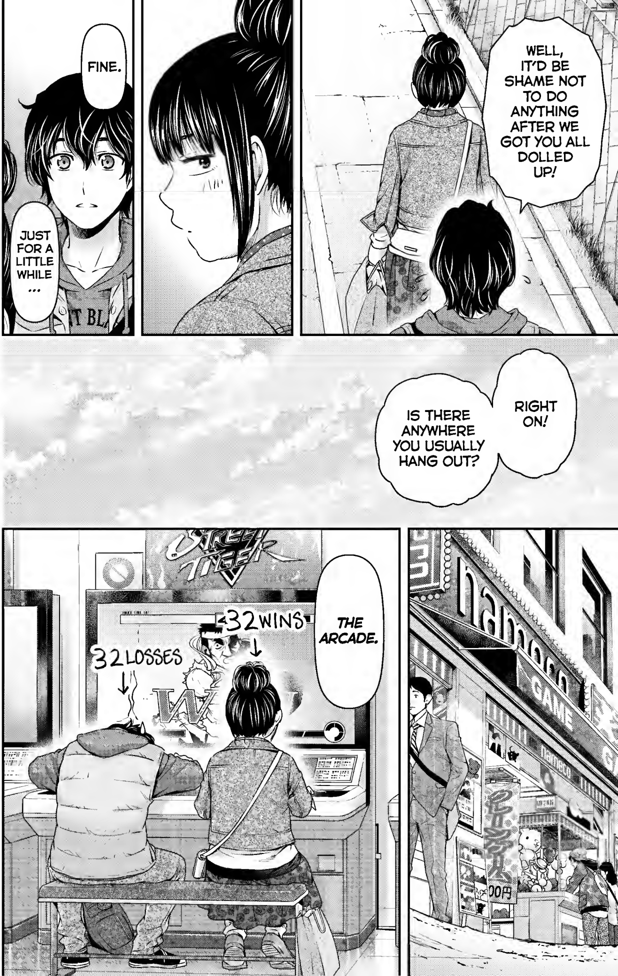

BUUUT,
I REALLY WISH YOU'D THINK ABOUT ME MORE WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.
わしゃ RUFL
わしゃ RUFL
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU'RE ALL I THINK ABOUT.
SATURDAY
HEEEY, NATSUO-KUN! LONG TIME NO SEE!
HOW'VE YOU BEEN?!
THANKS AGAIN FOR HELPING ME MOVE! HOW'S YOUR WRITING GOING?
ACTUALLY, I'M FOCUSED ON EXAM SEASON RIGHT NOW.
OH, RIGHT! IT'S ALREADY THAT TIME OF YEAR, HUH?
WHISPER ヒソ
HEY ...
I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU CALLED ME OUT ON THE WEEKEND ALL OF A SUDDEN. WHO THE HELL IS SHE?
ヒソ WHISPER
CHILL OUT.
TO CHANGE YOUR OUTLOOK, WE'RE GOING TO START BY CHANGING YOUR APPEARANCE.

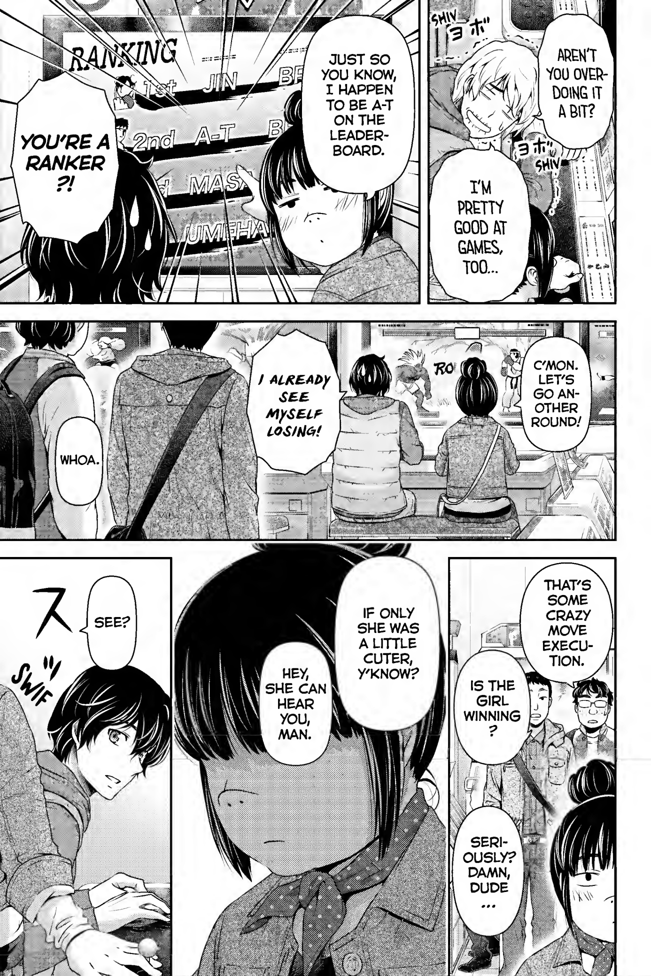

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, JURI-SAN?
FABULOUS!
I JOINED AN ACTING TROUPE AND HAVE BEEN TRAINING NONSTOP!
OH!
IS SHE THE GIRL YOU MENTIONED ON THE PHONE?
YUP.
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD LEND US YOUR EXPERTISE?
LEAVE IT TO ME!
I'LL SHOW YOU THE SKILLS I'VE HONED FROM DOLLING MYSELF UP EVERY SINGLE NIGHT!
TOSS
OKAY, NATSUO-KUN. GO KILL SOME TIME OUTSIDE.
WE'LL MAKE THE FINISHED PRODUCT A SURPRISE.
THUD
NOW, THEN...
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET TO WORK. ♥
I'M GONNA DO AAAALL SORTS OF STUFF TO YOU.
BA-DING

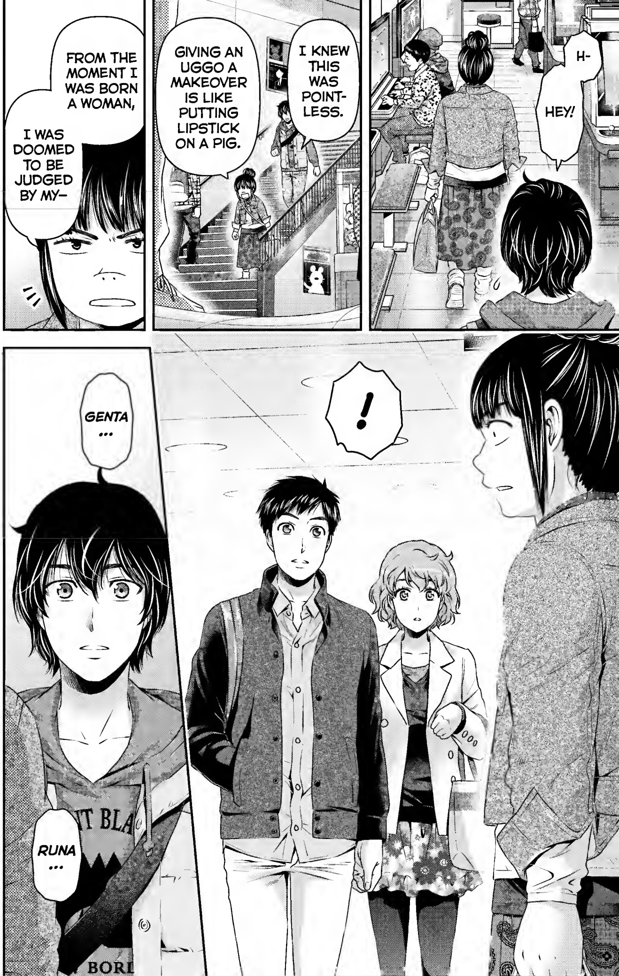

ガチャ
CLACK
THAT TOOK A WHILE, HUH?
MUST HAVE BEEN A LOT OF...
WORK ?!
PHEW. IT WAS WORTH ALL THE EFFORT.
HOLD UP. WHO THE HELL IS SHE?
WHERE'D SHE COME FROM?
スルッ
SWIP
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! THIS IS ONE AND ONLY ARISU-CHAN!
WHOA!
I MEAN, IT'S DEFINITELY IMPRESSIVE,
BUT I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY POINT IF SHE DOESN'T EVEN LOOK LIKE HERSELF.
WHAAAA?
OKAY, THEN ...
FWIP
FWIP
バ
バ
FWIP
FWIP


HOW ABOUT A MORE NATURAL LOOK?
OOH!
NOT BAD!
THAT'S THE MAGIC I'D EXPECT FROM SOMEONE WHO TRANSFORMED HERSELF EVERY NIGHT!
AMAZING!
MMM. SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY YOU SAY THAT TICKS ME OFF.
THIS FEELS REALLY EMBARRASSING ...
ONLY AT FIRST!
WHY DON'T WE HANG AROUND TOWN FOR A WHILE?
I THINK YOU'LL GET USED TO IT QUICKER IF YOU LET PEOPLE SEE YOU LIKE THAT.
NO WAY. THAT'S TOO MUCH.
TAP スタ
TAP スタ
I'LL JUST GO HOME TODAY.

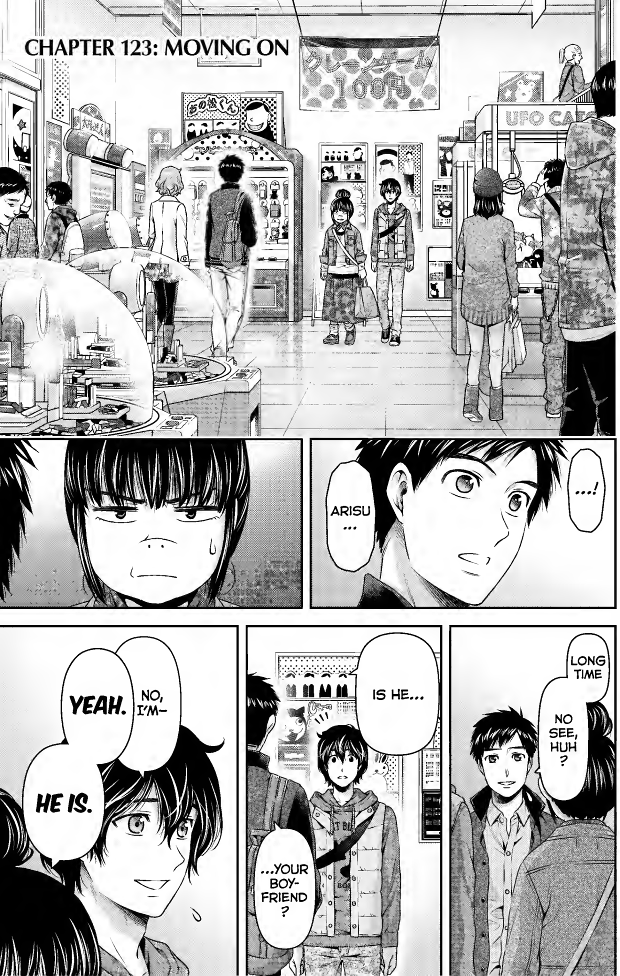

BAM
YOU TOLD ME TO TRY TO WHIP YOU INTO SHAPE.
DON'T THINK YOU CAN JUST...
...BACK OUT NOW.
きゅんっ
THROB...
...AS IF, IDIOT.
GROSS.
AWW.
KABEDON ONLY WORKS IF YOU'RE BOTH INTO EACH OTHER.
IF EMBARRASSMENT'S THE PROBLEM, THEN DON'T WORRY!
GRAB
PEOPLE REALLY AREN'T THAT INTERESTED IN YOU!
WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO CONVINCE ME?

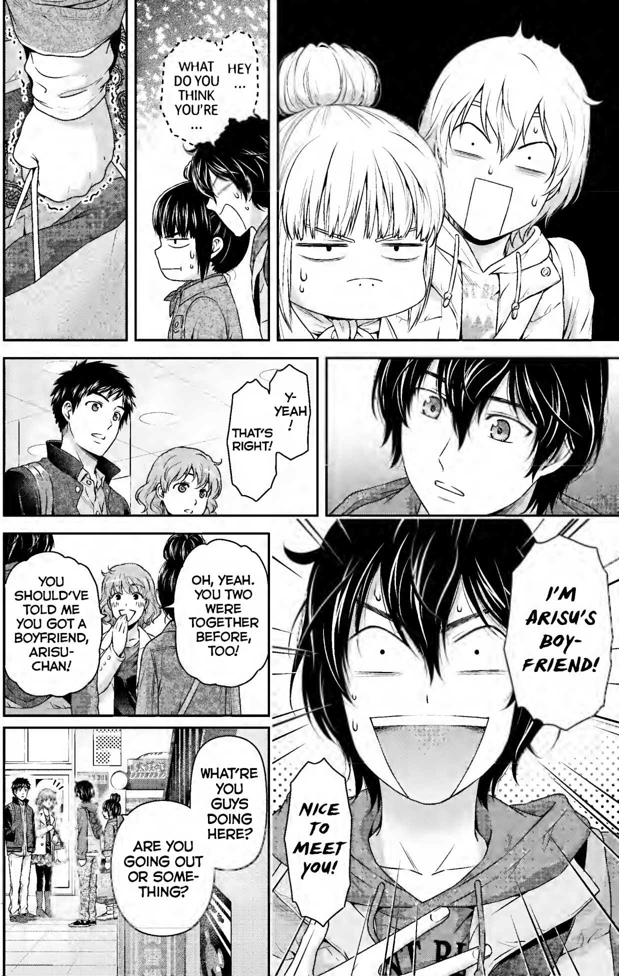

WELL, IT'D BE SHAME NOT TO DO ANYTHING AFTER WE GOT YOU ALL DOLLED UP!
FINE.
JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE ...
RIGHT ON!
IS THERE ANYWHERE YOU USUALLY HANG OUT?
nameco
GAME
nameco
00円
STREET TIGER
THE ARCADE.
32 WINS
32 LOSSES

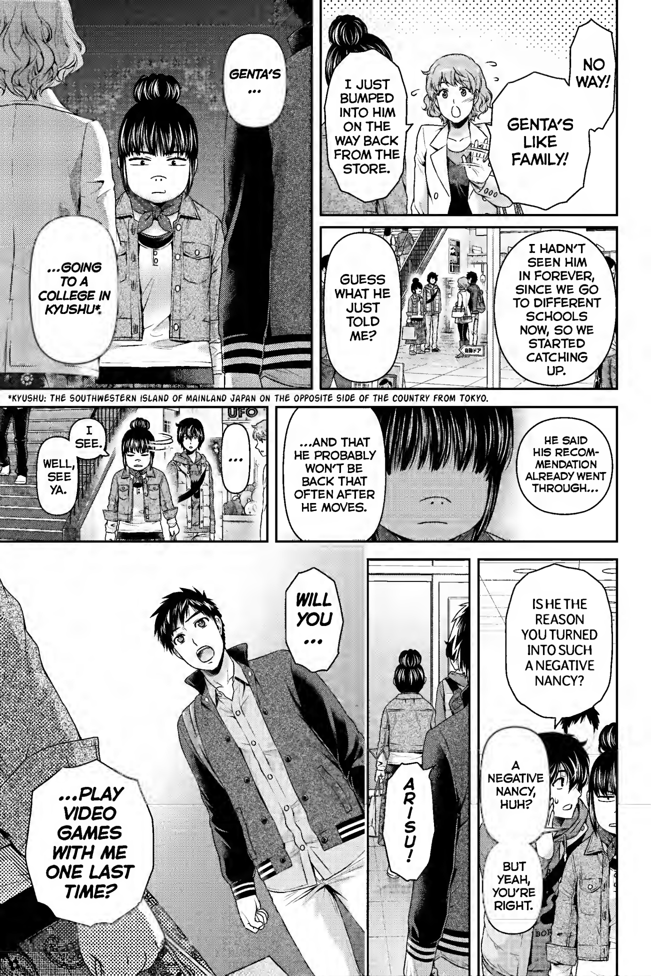

SHIV ヨボ
AREN'T YOU OVER-DOING IT A BIT?
ヨボ SHIV
I'M PRETTY GOOD AT GAMES, TOO...
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I HAPPEN TO BE A-T ON THE LEADER-BOARD.
RANKING
1st JIN BE
2nd A-T B
MASA
UMEHA
YOU'RE A RANKER?!
C'MON. LET'S GO AN-OTHER ROUND!
RO
I ALREADY SEE MYSELF LOSING!
WHOA.
THAT'S SOME CRAZY MOVE EXECU-TION.
IS THE GIRL WINNING?
SERI-OUSLY? DAMN, DUDE...
IF ONLY SHE WAS A LITTLE CUTER, Y'KNOW?
HEY, SHE CAN HEAR YOU, MAN.
SEE?
ス SWIF


H-
HEY!
I KNEW THIS WAS POINTLESS.
GIVING AN UGGO A MAKEOVER IS LIKE PUTTING LIPSTICK ON A PIG.
FROM THE MOMENT I WAS BORN A WOMAN,
I WAS DOOMED TO BE JUDGED BY MY–
!
GENTA ...
RUNA ...
IT BLA
BORD

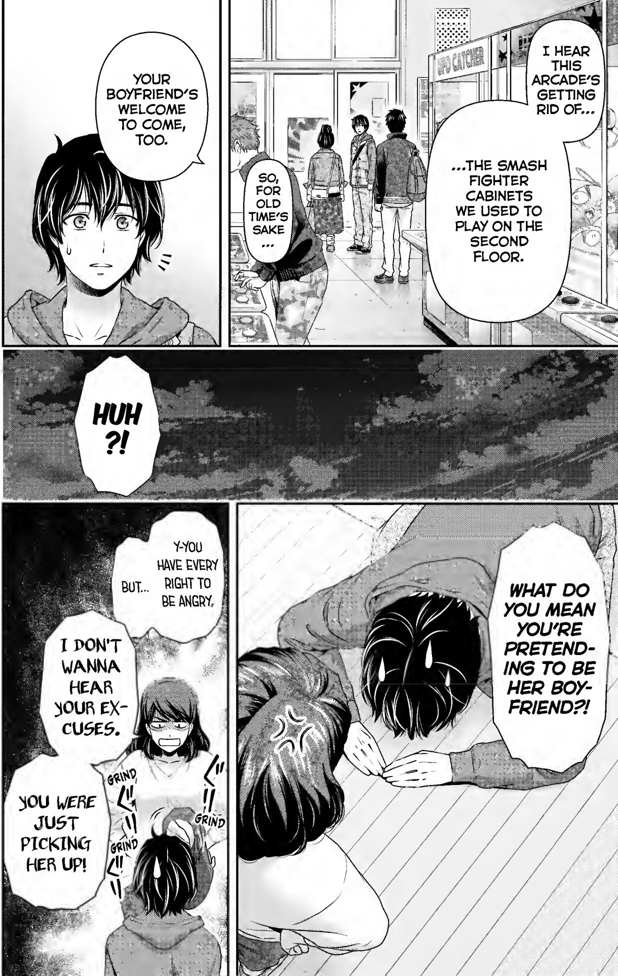
CHAPTER 123: MOVING ON

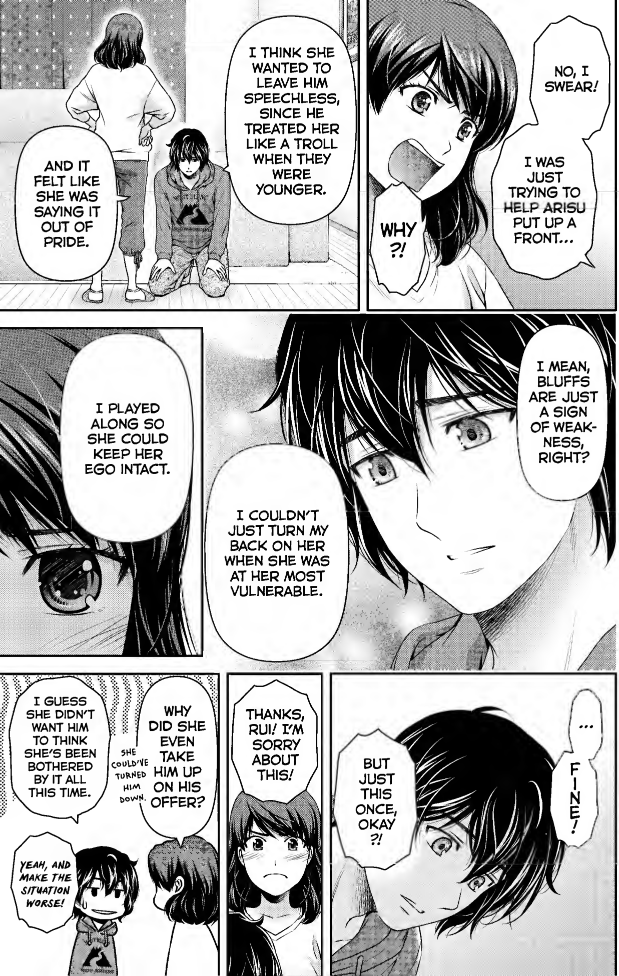

クレーンゲーム 100円
UFO CAT
...!
ARISU ...
LONG TIME NO SEE, HUH?
IS HE...
...YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
NO, I'M—
YEAH.
HE IS.

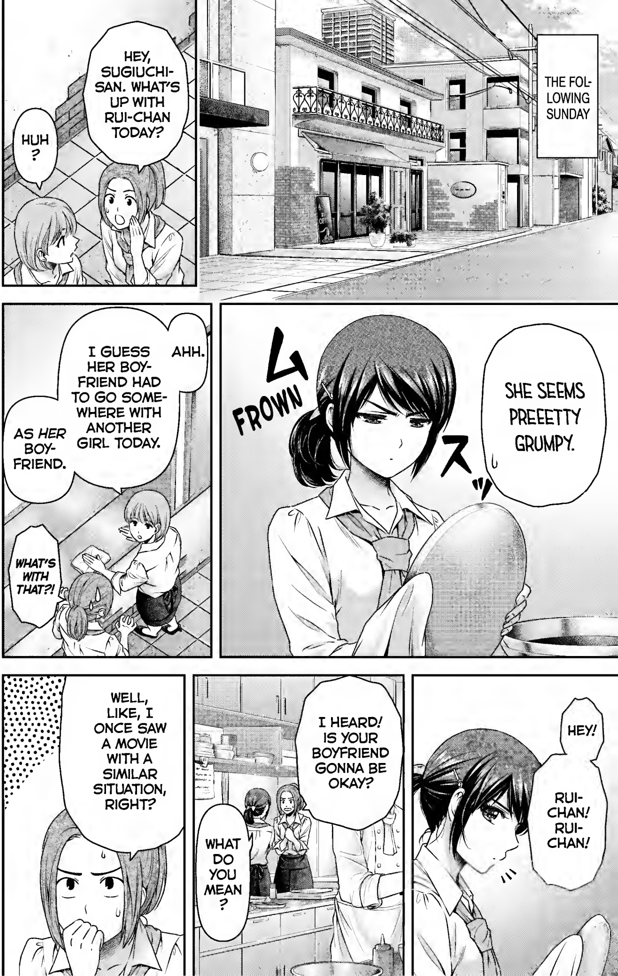

HEY ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE ...
Y-YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M ARISU'S BOYFRIEND!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
OH, YEAH. YOU TWO WERE TOGETHER BEFORE, TOO!
YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME YOU GOT A BOYFRIEND, ARISU-CHAN!
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?
ARE YOU GOING OUT OR SOME-THING?

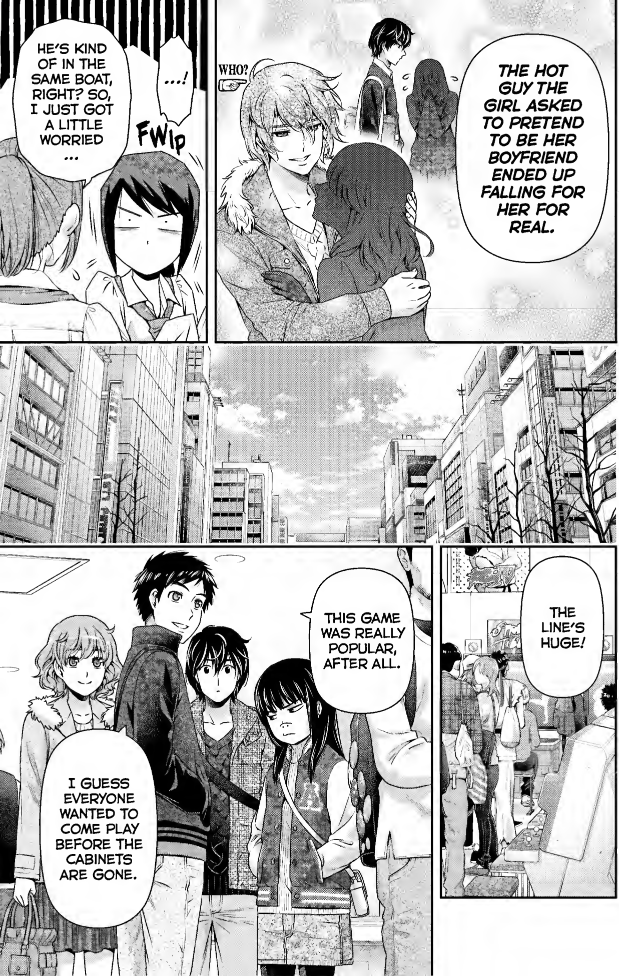

NO WAY!
GENTA'S LIKE FAMILY!
I JUST BUMPED INTO HIM ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE STORE.
I HADN'T SEEN HIM IN FOREVER, SINCE WE GO TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS NOW, SO WE STARTED CATCHING UP.
GUESS WHAT HE JUST TOLD ME?
GENTA'S ...
...GOING TO A COLLEGE IN KYUSHU*.
HE SAID HIS RECOMMENDATION ALREADY WENT THROUGH...
...AND THAT HE PROBABLY WON'T BE BACK THAT OFTEN AFTER HE MOVES.
...
I SEE.
WELL, SEE YA.
IS HE THE REASON YOU TURNED INTO SUCH A NEGATIVE NANCY?
A NEGATIVE NANCY, HUH?
BUT YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
ARISU!
WILL YOU ...
...PLAY VIDEO GAMES WITH ME ONE LAST TIME?

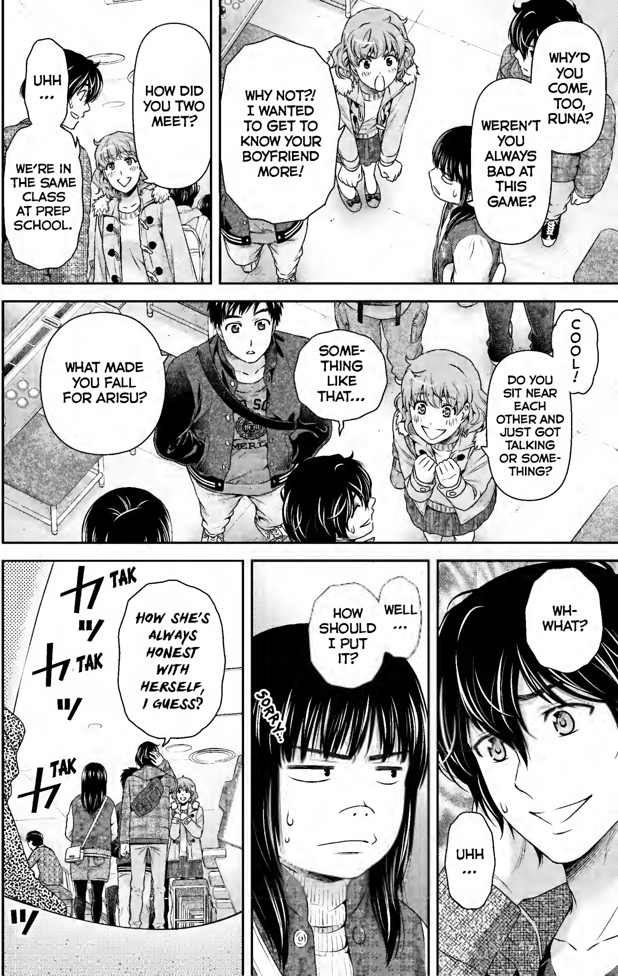
*KYUSHU: THE SOUTHWESTERN ISLAND OF MAINLAND JAPAN ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE COUNTRY FROM TOKYO.

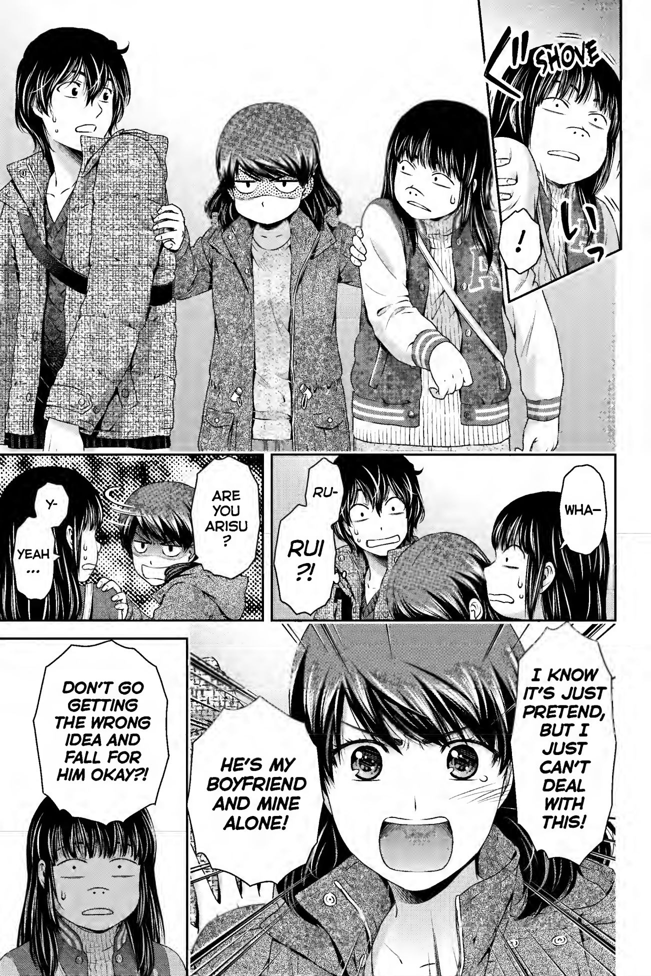

UFO CATCHER
I HEAR THIS ARCADE'S GETTING RID OF...
...THE SMASH FIGHTER CABINETS WE USED TO PLAY ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
SO, FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE ...
YOUR BOYFRIEND'S WELCOME TO COME, TOO.
HUH ?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE PRETENDING TO BE HER BOYFRIEND?!
Y-YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY,
BUT...
I DON'T WANNA HEAR YOUR EXCUSES.
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
YOU WERE JUST PICKING HER UP!

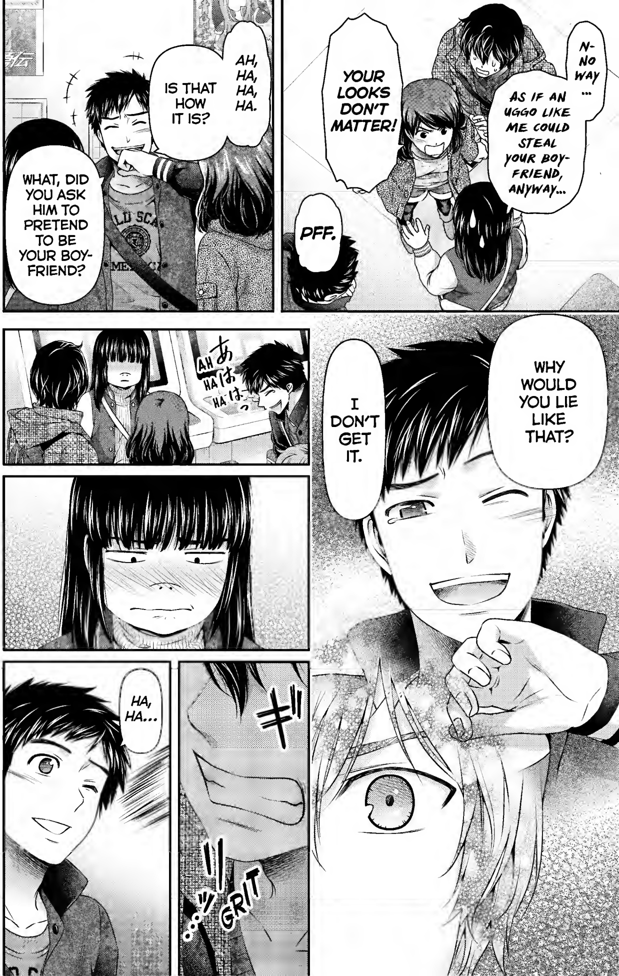

NO, I SWEAR!
I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP ARISU PUT UP A FRONT...
WHY?!
I THINK SHE WANTED TO LEAVE HIM SPEECHLESS, SINCE HE TREATED HER LIKE A TROLL WHEN THEY WERE YOUNGER.
AND IT FELT LIKE SHE WAS SAYING IT OUT OF PRIDE.
I MEAN, BLUFFS ARE JUST A SIGN OF WEAKNESS, RIGHT?
I COULDN'T JUST TURN MY BACK ON HER WHEN SHE WAS AT HER MOST VULNERABLE.
I PLAYED ALONG SO SHE COULD KEEP HER EGO INTACT.
... FINE!
BUT JUST THIS ONCE, OKAY?!
THANKS, RUI! I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS!
WHY DID SHE EVEN TAKE HIM UP ON HIS OFFER?
SHE COULD'VE TURNED HIM DOWN.
I GUESS SHE DIDN'T WANT HIM TO THINK SHE'S BEEN BOTHERED BY IT ALL THIS TIME.
YEAH, AND MAKE THE SITUATION WORSE!

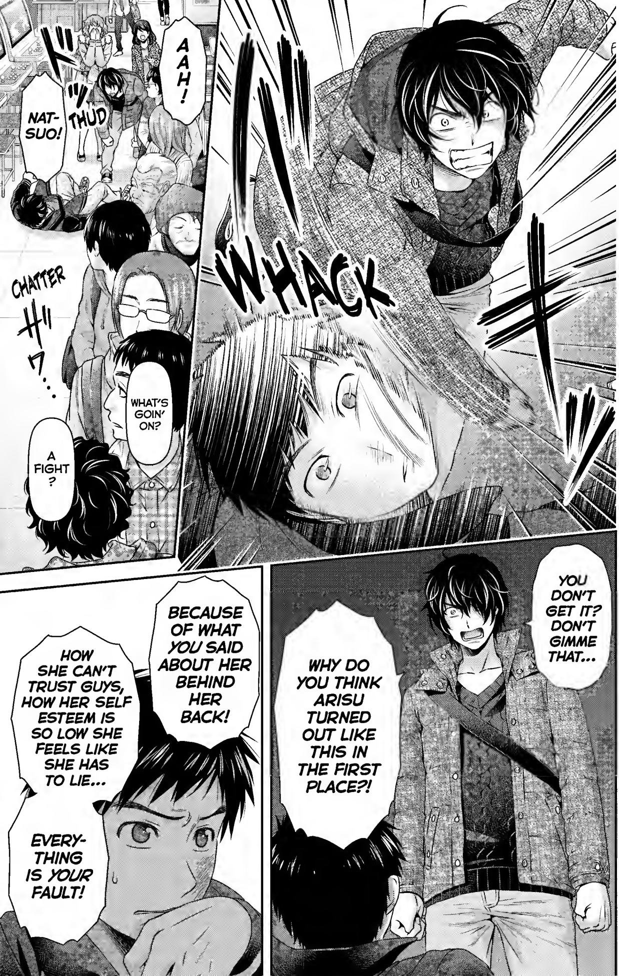

THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY
HEY, SUGIUCHI-SAN. WHAT'S UP WITH RUI-CHAN TODAY?
HUH?
ム
FROWN
SHE SEEMS PREEETTY GRUMPY.
スッ
AHH.
I GUESS HER BOYFRIEND HAD TO GO SOMEWHERE WITH ANOTHER GIRL TODAY.
AS *HER* BOYFRIEND.
WHAT'S WITH THAT?!
HEY!
RUI-CHAN! RUI-CHAN!
I HEARD! IS YOUR BOYFRIEND GONNA BE OKAY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL, LIKE, I ONCE SAW A MOVIE WITH A SIMILAR SITUATION, RIGHT?

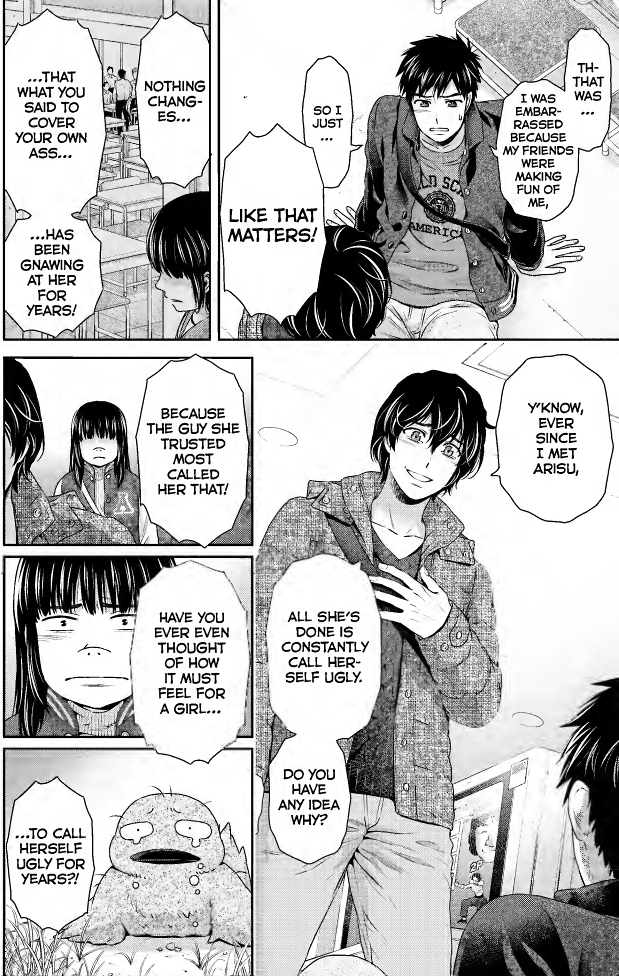

WHO?
THE HOT GUY THE GIRL ASKED TO PRETEND TO BE HER BOYFRIEND ENDED UP FALLING FOR HER FOR REAL.
...!
HE'S KIND OF IN THE SAME BOAT, RIGHT? SO, I JUST GOT A LITTLE WORRIED ...
FWIP
THE LINE'S HUGE!
THIS GAME WAS REALLY POPULAR, AFTER ALL.
I GUESS EVERYONE WANTED TO COME PLAY BEFORE THE CABINETS ARE GONE.

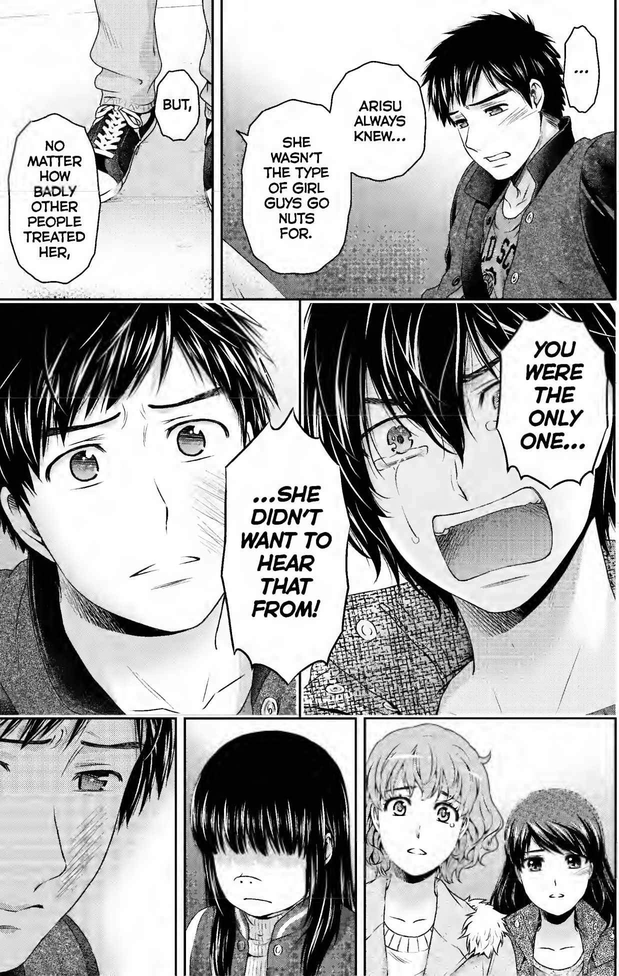

WHY'D YOU COME, TOO, RUNA?
WEREN'T YOU ALWAYS BAD AT THIS GAME?
WHY NOT?! I WANTED TO GET TO KNOW YOUR BOYFRIEND MORE!
HOW DID YOU TWO MEET?
UHH...
WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AT PREP SCHOOL.
COOL!
DO YOU SIT NEAR EACH OTHER AND JUST GOT TALKING OR SOMETHING?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
WHAT MADE YOU FALL FOR ARISU?
WH-WHAT?
UHH...
WELL...
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT?
SORRY...
TAK
TAK
HOW SHE'S ALWAYS HONEST WITH HERSELF, I GUESS?
TAK

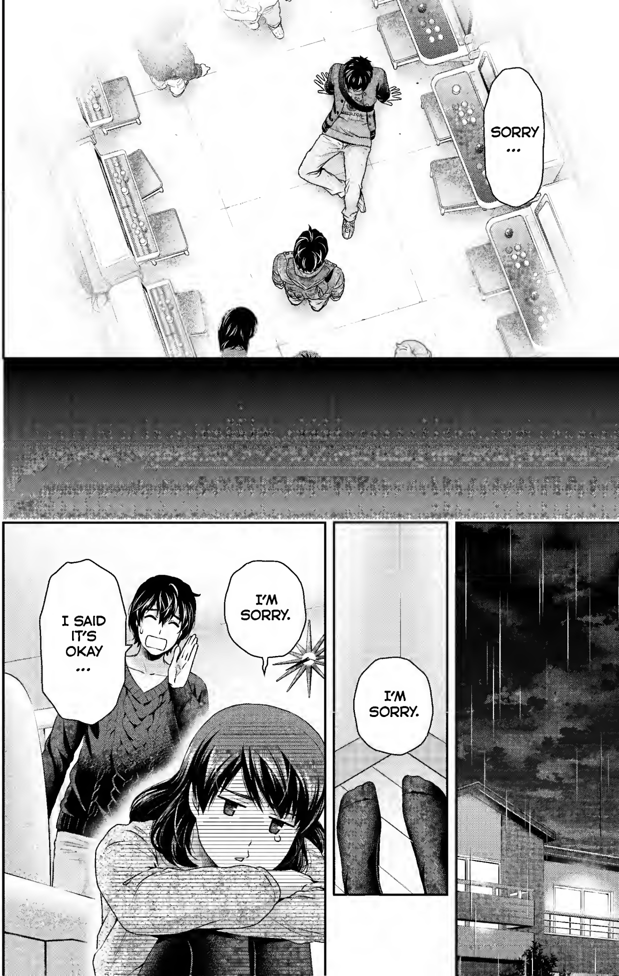

SHOVE
!
WHA—
RU-
RUI ?!
ARE YOU ARISU ?
Y-
YEAH ...
I KNOW IT'S JUST PRETEND, BUT I JUST CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS!
HE'S MY BOYFRIEND AND MINE ALONE!
DON'T GO GETTING THE WRONG IDEA AND FALL FOR HIM OKAY?!

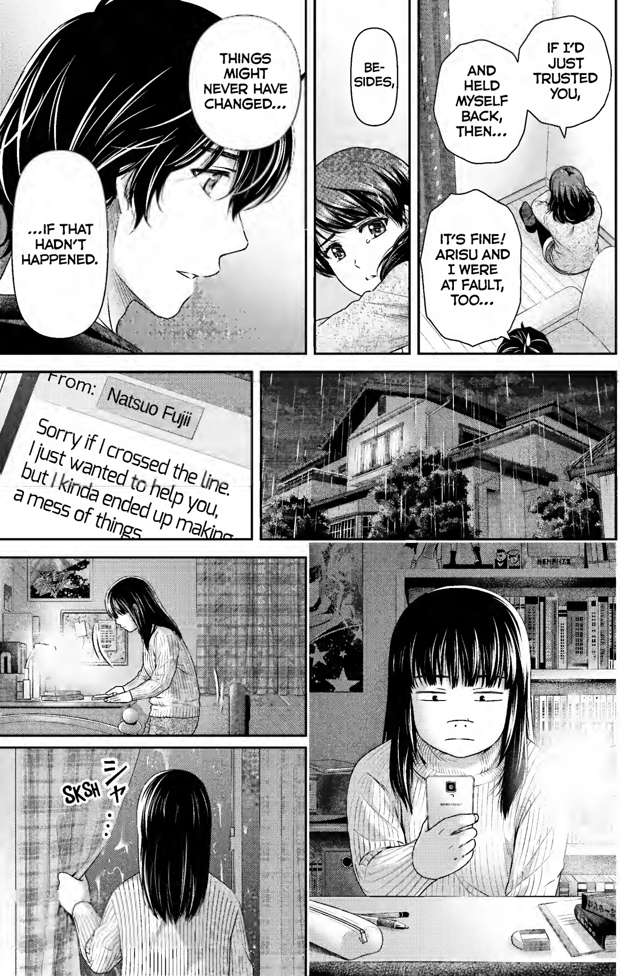

N-NO WAY...
AS IF AN UGGO LIKE ME COULD STEAL YOUR BOYFRIEND, ANYWAY...
YOUR LOOKS DON'T MATTER!
PFF.
AH, HA, HA, HA.
IS THAT HOW IT IS?
WHAT, DID YOU ASK HIM TO PRETEND TO BE YOUR BOYFRIEND?
WHY WOULD YOU LIE LIKE THAT?
I DON'T GET IT.
AH HA HA あはは っ
ギッ
GRIT
HA, HA...


WHACK
AAH!
ドッ
THUD
NAT-SUO!
CHATTER
ザワ…
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
A FIGHT?
YOU DON'T GET IT? DON'T GIMME THAT…
WHY DO YOU THINK ARISU TURNED OUT LIKE THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT HER BEHIND HER BACK!
HOW SHE CAN'T TRUST GUYS, HOW HER SELF ESTEEM IS SO LOW SHE FEELS LIKE SHE HAS TO LIE…
EVERYTHING IS YOUR FAULT!


TH-THAT WAS...
I WAS EMBARRASSED BECAUSE MY FRIENDS WERE MAKING FUN OF ME,
SO I JUST...
LIKE THAT MATTERS!
NOTHING CHANGES...
...THAT WHAT YOU SAID TO COVER YOUR OWN ASS...
...HAS BEEN GNAWING AT HER FOR YEARS!
Y'KNOW, EVER SINCE I MET ARISU,
ALL SHE'S DONE IS CONSTANTLY CALL HERSELF UGLY.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY?
2P
BECAUSE THE GUY SHE TRUSTED MOST CALLED HER THAT!
HAVE YOU EVER EVEN THOUGHT OF HOW IT MUST FEEL FOR A GIRL...
...TO CALL HERSELF UGLY FOR YEARS?!

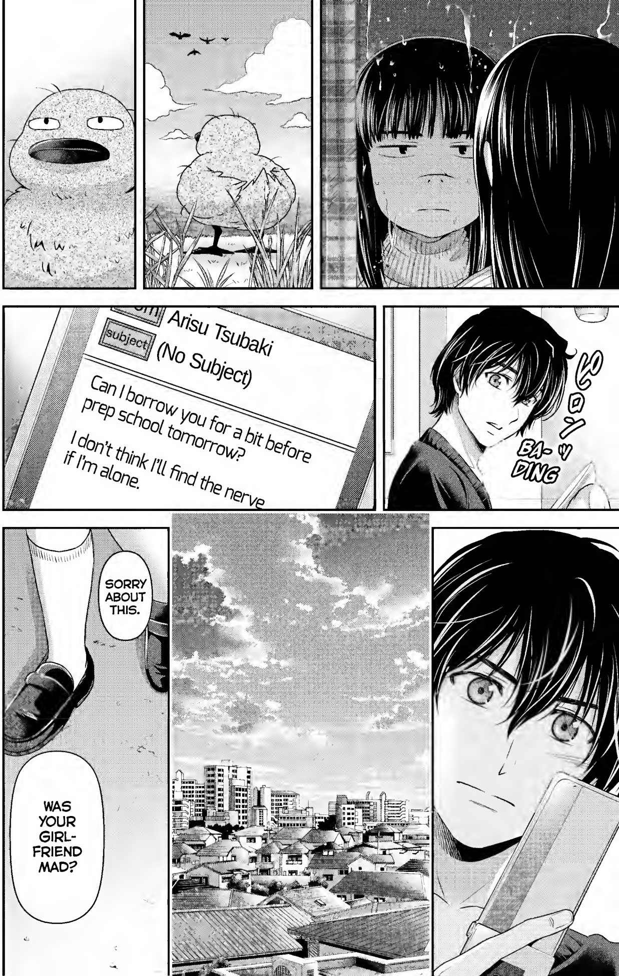

...
ARISU ALWAYS KNEW...
SHE WASN'T THE TYPE OF GIRL GUYS GO NUTS FOR.
BUT,
NO MATTER HOW BADLY OTHER PEOPLE TREATED HER,
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE...
...SHE DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM!


SORRY ...
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
I SAID IT'S OKAY ...


IF I'D JUST TRUSTED YOU,
AND HELD MYSELF BACK, THEN...
IT'S FINE! ARISU AND I WERE AT FAULT, TOO...
BESIDES,
THINGS MIGHT NEVER HAVE CHANGED...
...IF THAT HADN'T HAPPENED.
SKSH
シャ
...

From: Natsuo Fujii

Sorry if I crossed the line.
I just wanted to help you,
but I kinda ended up making
a mess of things



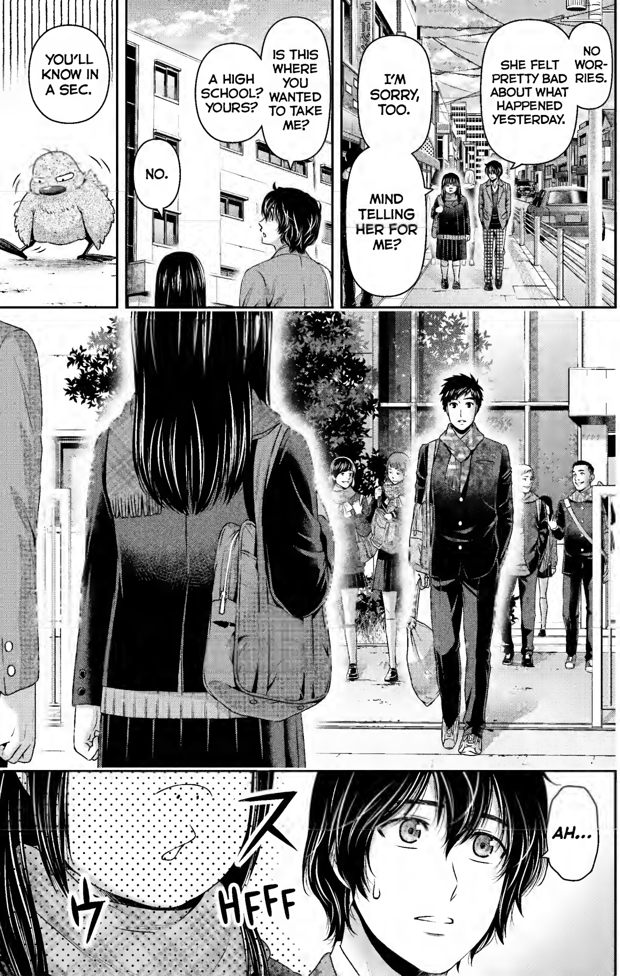
Arisu Tsubaki

subject (No Subject)

Can I borrow you for a bit before prep school tomorrow?

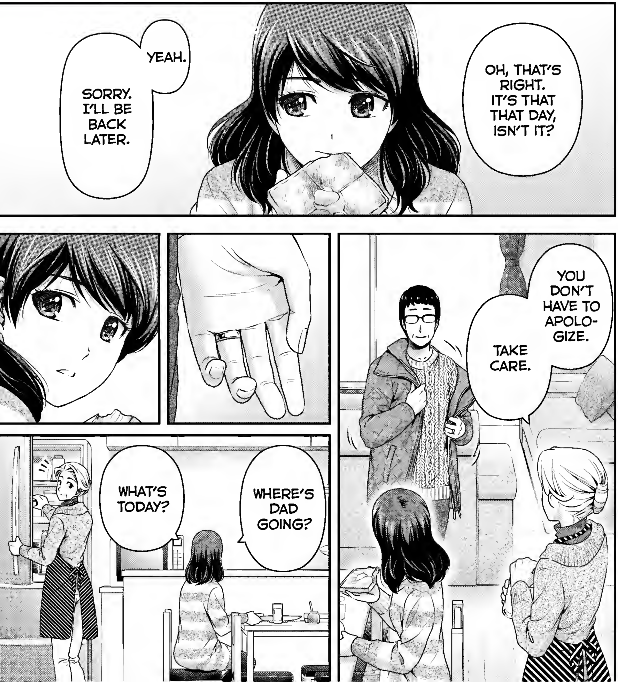
I don't think I'll find the nerve if I'm alone.

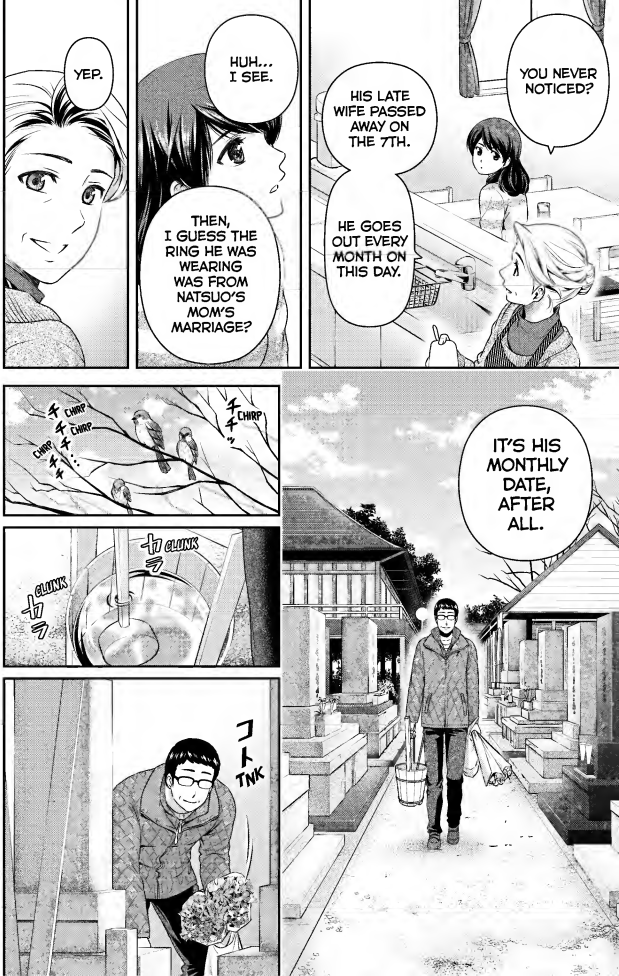
ピロン♪
BA-DING
SORRY ABOUT THIS.
WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND MAD?

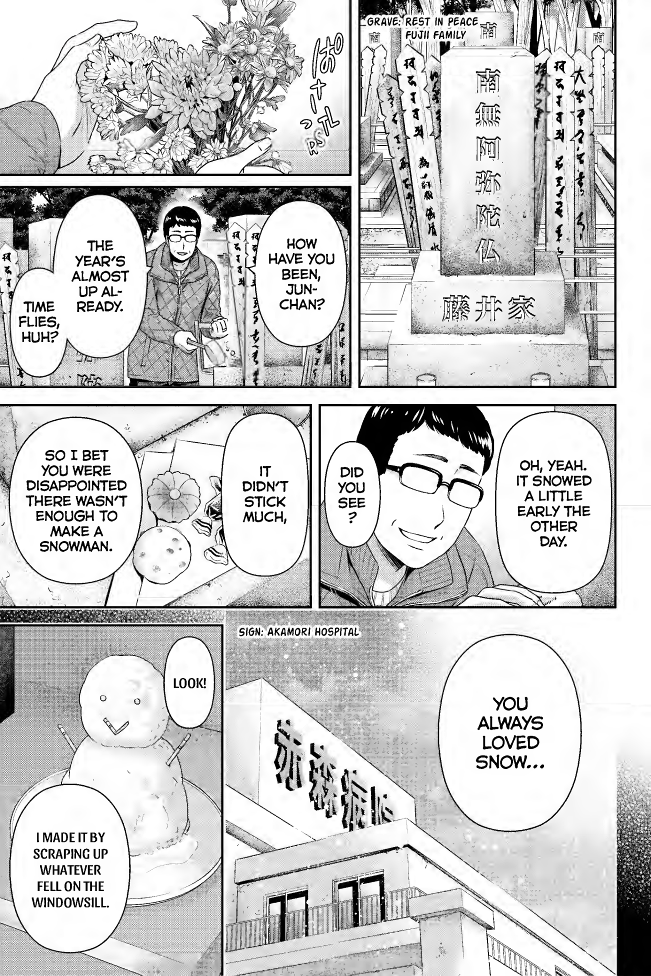

NO WORRIES.
SHE FELT PRETTY BAD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
I'M SORRY, TOO.
MIND TELLING HER FOR ME?
IS THIS WHERE YOU WANTED TO TAKE ME?
A HIGH SCHOOL? YOURS?
NO.
YOU'LL KNOW IN A SEC.
AH...
HFFF

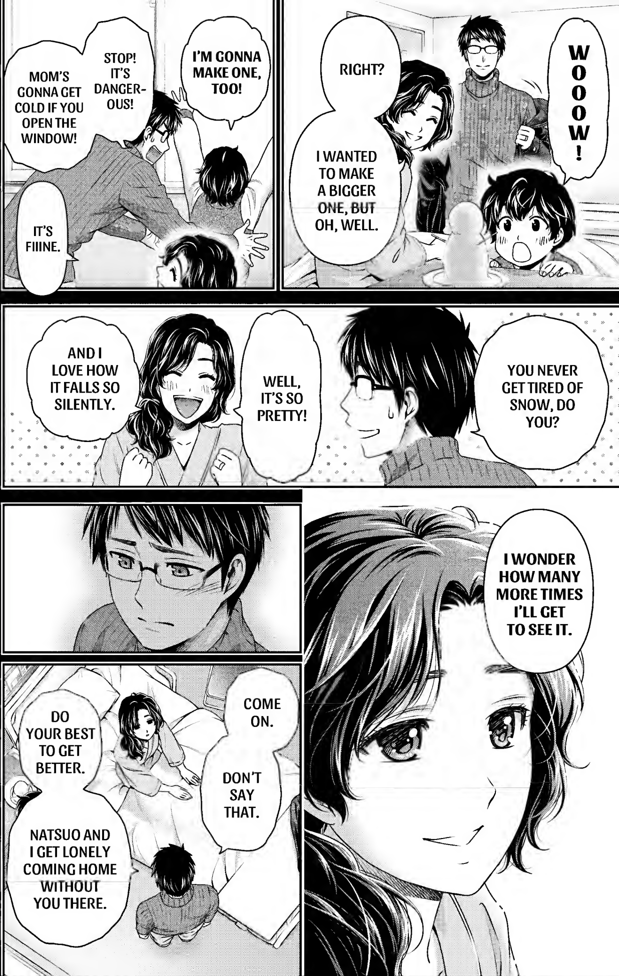
Extra Manga

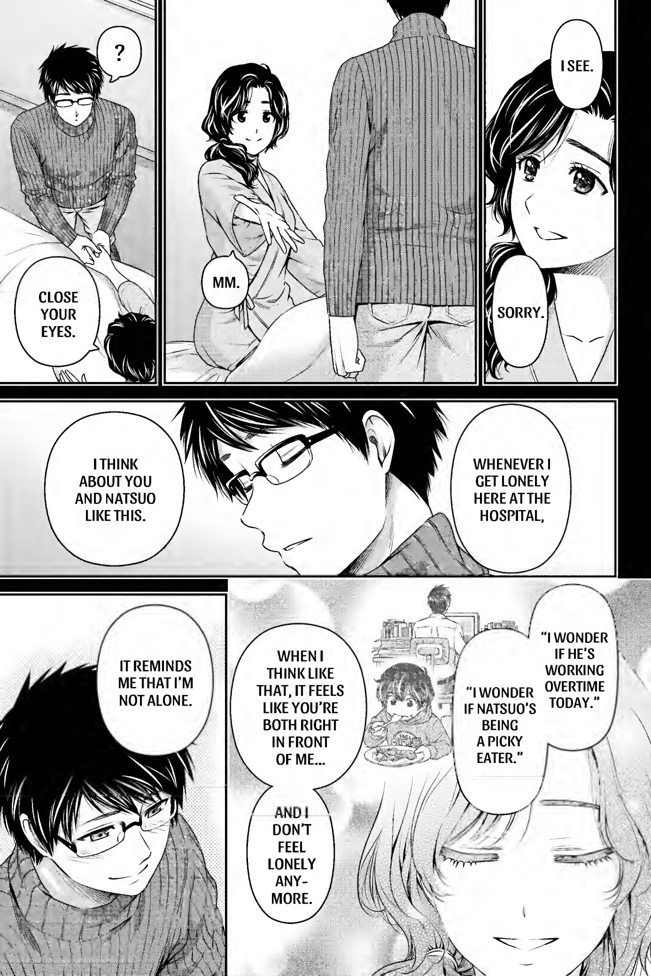
Date

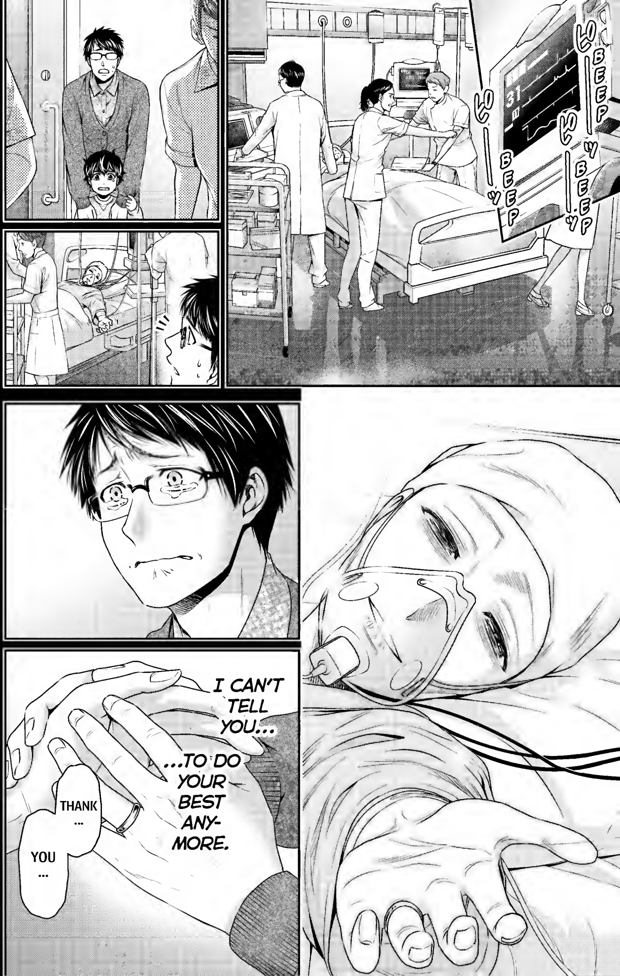

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S THAT THAT DAY, ISN'T IT?
YEAH.
SORRY. I'LL BE BACK LATER.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
TAKE CARE.
WHERE'S DAD GOING?
WHAT'S TODAY?

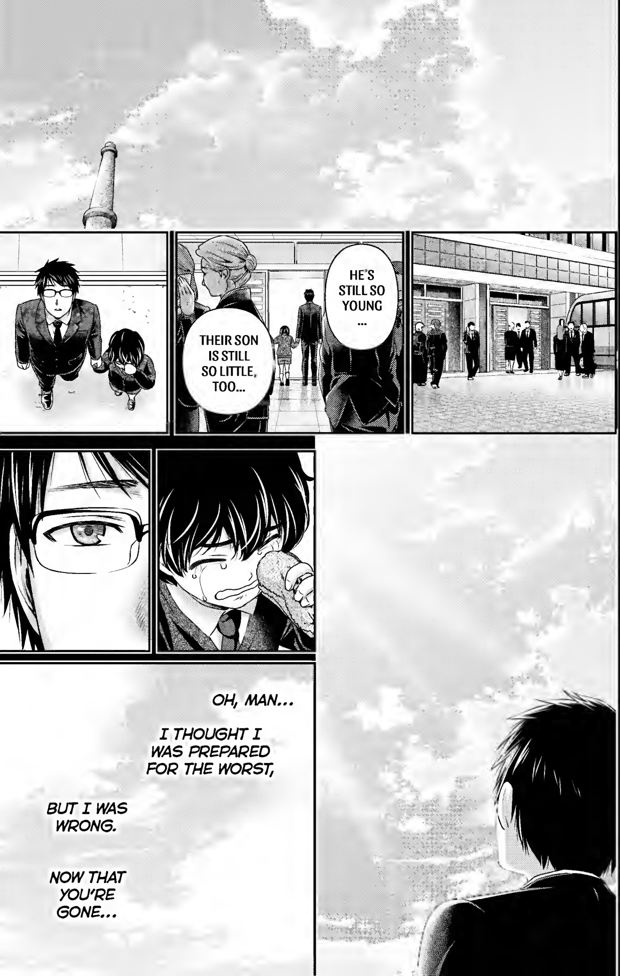

YOU NEVER NOTICED?
HIS LATE WIFE PASSED AWAY ON THE 7TH.
HE GOES OUT EVERY MONTH ON THIS DAY.
HUH... I SEE.
THEN, I GUESS THE RING HE WAS WEARING WAS FROM NATSUO'S MOM'S MARRIAGE?
YEP.
IT'S HIS MONTHLY DATE, AFTER ALL.
チチッ CHIRP
チチ CHIRP
チチ CHIRP
チチ... CHIRP
カラ CLUNK
カラ CLUNK
コト TNK

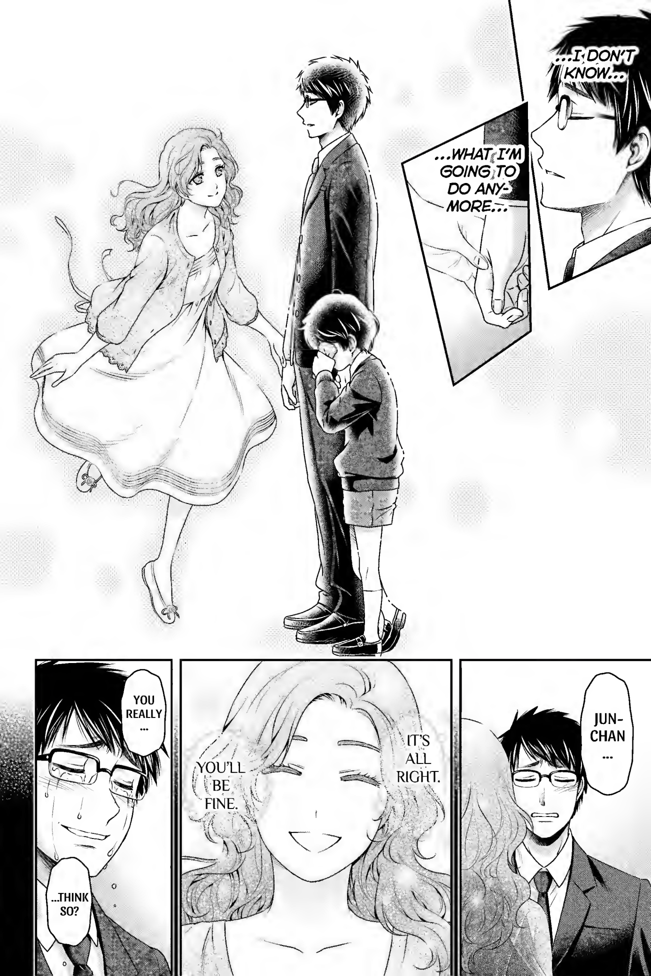

GRAVE: REST IN PEACE FUJII FAMILY
南無阿弥陀仏
藤井家
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, JUN-CHAN?
THE YEAR'S ALMOST UP ALREADY.
TIME FLIES, HUH?
OH, YEAH. IT SNOWED A LITTLE EARLY THE OTHER DAY.
DID YOU SEE?
IT DIDN'T STICK MUCH,
SO I BET YOU WERE DISAPPOINTED THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE A SNOWMAN.
SIGN: AKAMORI HOSPITAL
YOU ALWAYS LOVED SNOW...
LOOK!
I MADE IT BY SCRAPING UP WHATEVER FELL ON THE WINDOWSILL.

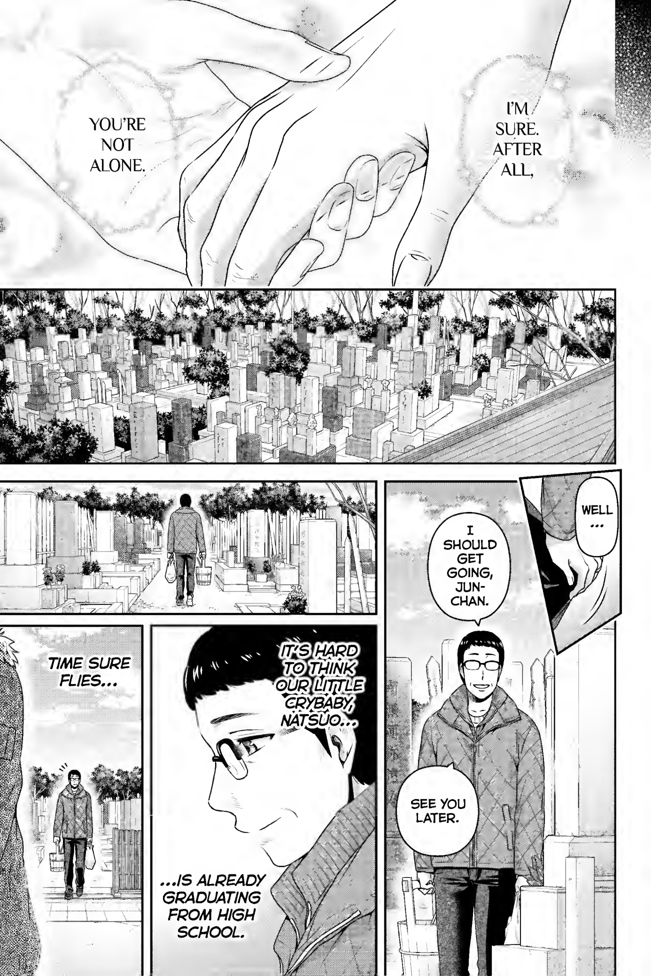

WOOOOW!
RIGHT?
I WANTED TO MAKE A BIGGER ONE, BUT OH, WELL.
I'M GONNA MAKE ONE, TOO!
STOP! IT'S DANGEROUS!
MOM'S GONNA GET COLD IF YOU OPEN THE WINDOW!
IT'S FIIINE.
YOU NEVER GET TIRED OF SNOW, DO YOU?
WELL, IT'S SO PRETTY!
AND I LOVE HOW IT FALLS SO SILENTLY.
I WONDER HOW MANY MORE TIMES I'LL GET TO SEE IT.
COME ON.
DON'T SAY THAT.
DO YOUR BEST TO GET BETTER.
NATSUO AND I GET LONELY COMING HOME WITHOUT YOU THERE.

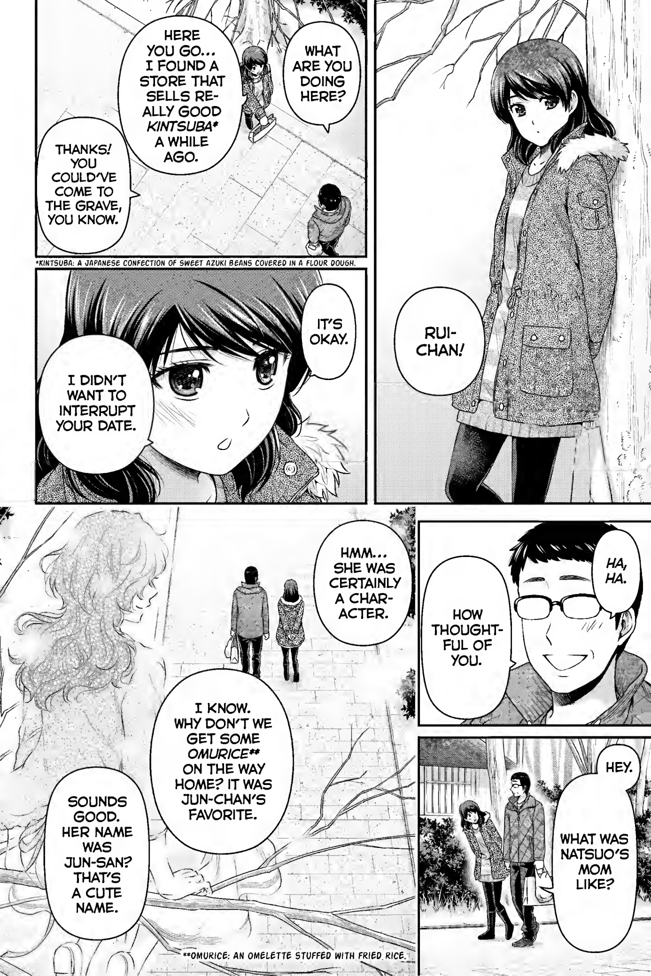

I SEE.
SORRY.
MM.
?
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
WHENEVER I GET LONELY HERE AT THE HOSPITAL,
I THINK ABOUT YOU AND NATSUO LIKE THIS.
"I WONDER IF HE'S WORKING OVERTIME TODAY."
"I WONDER IF NATSUO'S BEING A PICKY EATER."
WHEN I THINK LIKE THAT, IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE BOTH RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...
AND I DON'T FEEL LONELY ANYMORE.
IT REMINDS ME THAT I'M NOT ALONE.


ピッ BEEP
ピッ BEEP
ピーッ BEEP
I CAN'T TELL YOU...
...TO DO YOUR BEST ANYMORE.
THANK...
YOU...


HE'S STILL SO YOUNG ...
THEIR SON IS STILL SO LITTLE, TOO...
OH, MAN...
I THOUGHT I WAS PREPARED FOR THE WORST,
BUT I WAS WRONG.
NOW THAT YOU'RE GONE...


...I DON'T KNOW...
...WHAT I'M GOING TO DO ANYMORE...
JUN-CHAN...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU'LL BE FINE.
YOU REALLY ...
...THINK SO?


I'M SURE. AFTER ALL,
YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
WELL...
I SHOULD GET GOING, JUN-CHAN.
SEE YOU LATER.
IT'S HARD TO THINK OUR LITTLE CRYBABY, NATSUO...
...IS ALREADY GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
TIME SURE FLIES...

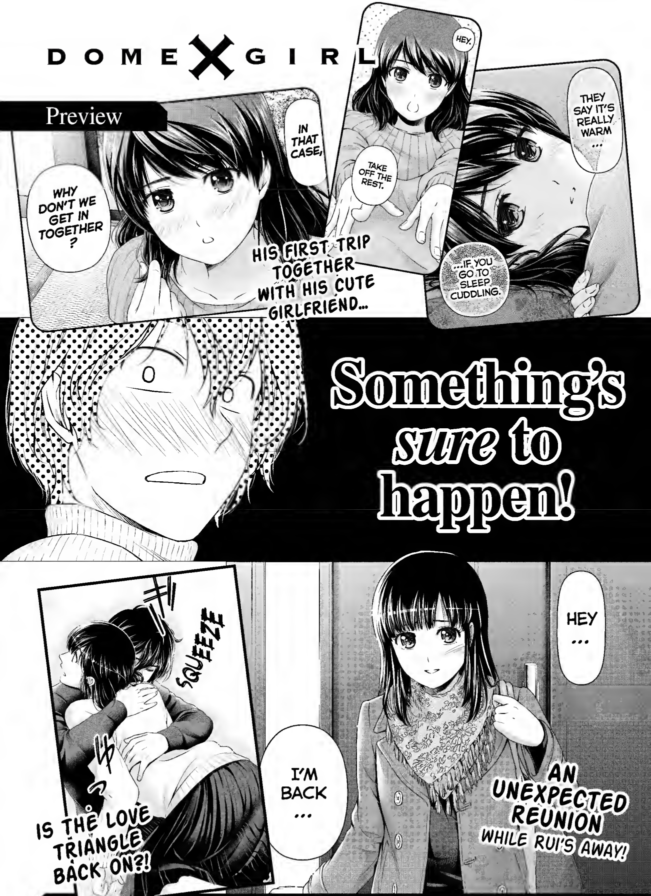

RUI-CHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HERE YOU GO... I FOUND A STORE THAT SELLS REALLY GOOD *KINTSUBA** A WHILE AGO.
THANKS! YOU COULD'VE COME TO THE GRAVE, YOU KNOW.
IT'S OKAY.
I DIDN'T WANT TO INTERRUPT YOUR DATE.
HA, HA.
HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU.
HEY.
WHAT WAS NATSUO'S MOM LIKE?
HMM... SHE WAS CERTAINLY A CHARACTER.
I KNOW. WHY DON'T WE GET SOME *OMURICE*** ON THE WAY HOME? IT WAS JUN-CHAN'S FAVORITE.
SOUNDS GOOD. HER NAME WAS JUN-SAN? THAT'S A CUTE NAME.

*KINTSUBA: A JAPANESE CONFECTION OF SWEET AZUKI BEANS COVERED IN A FLOUR DOUGH.

**OMURICE: AN OMELETTE STUFFED WITH FRIED RICE.

DOME X GIRL

Preview


They say it's really warm...
...if you go to sleep cuddling.
Hey.
Take off the rest.
In that case,
Why don't we get in together?
His first trip together with his cute girlfriend...
Something's *sure* to happen!
Hey...
I'm back...
An unexpected reunion while Rui's away!
Squeeze
Is the love triangle back on?!

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 14!

Domestic Girlfriend 13

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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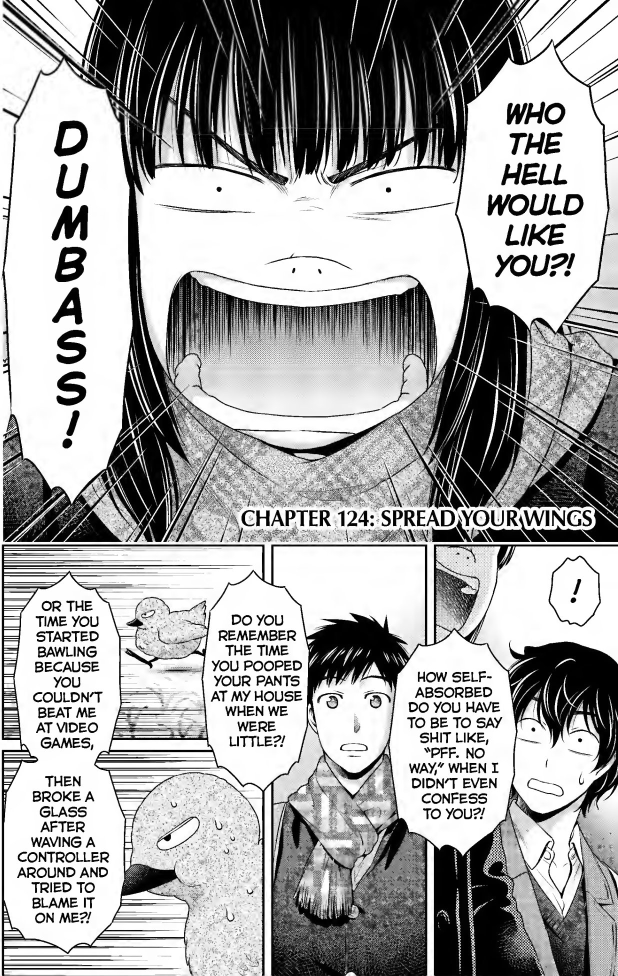
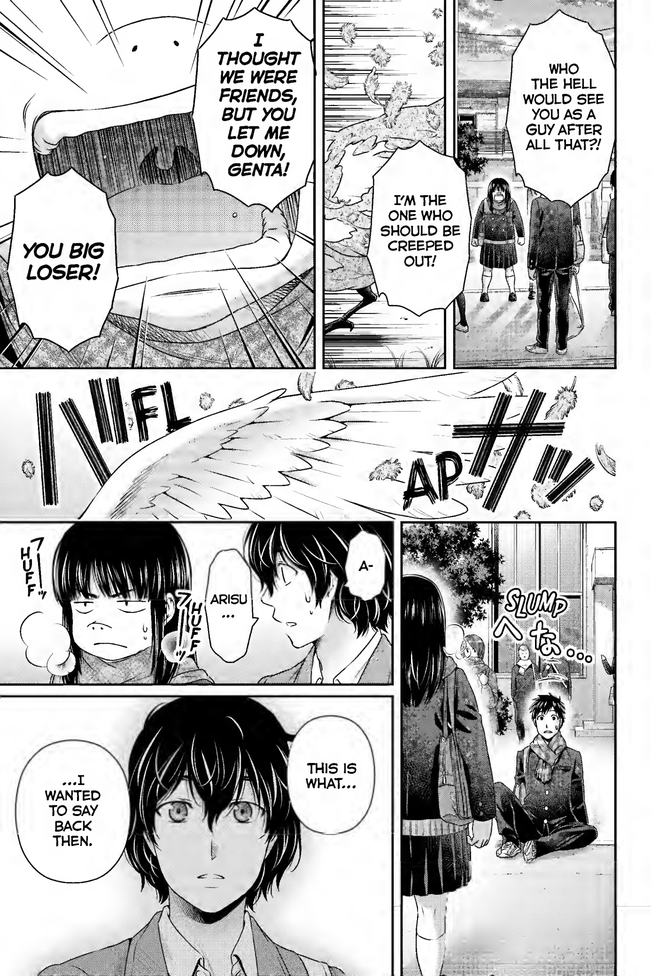
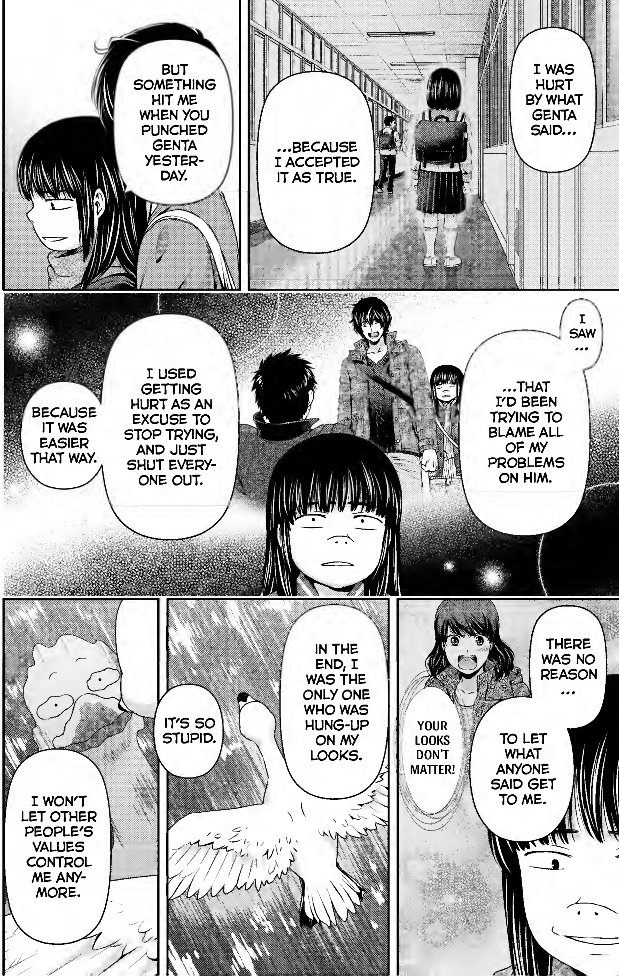
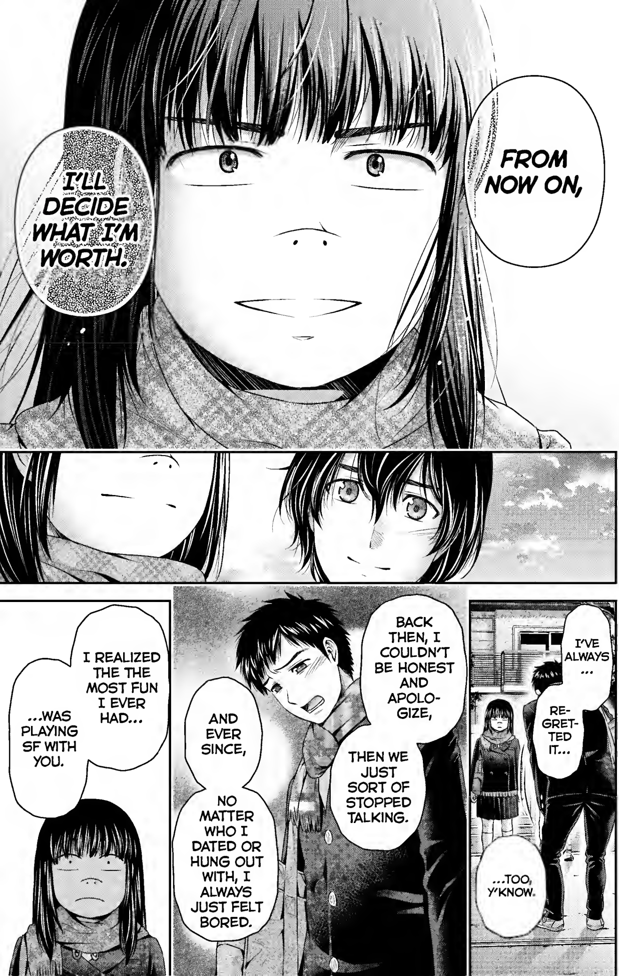
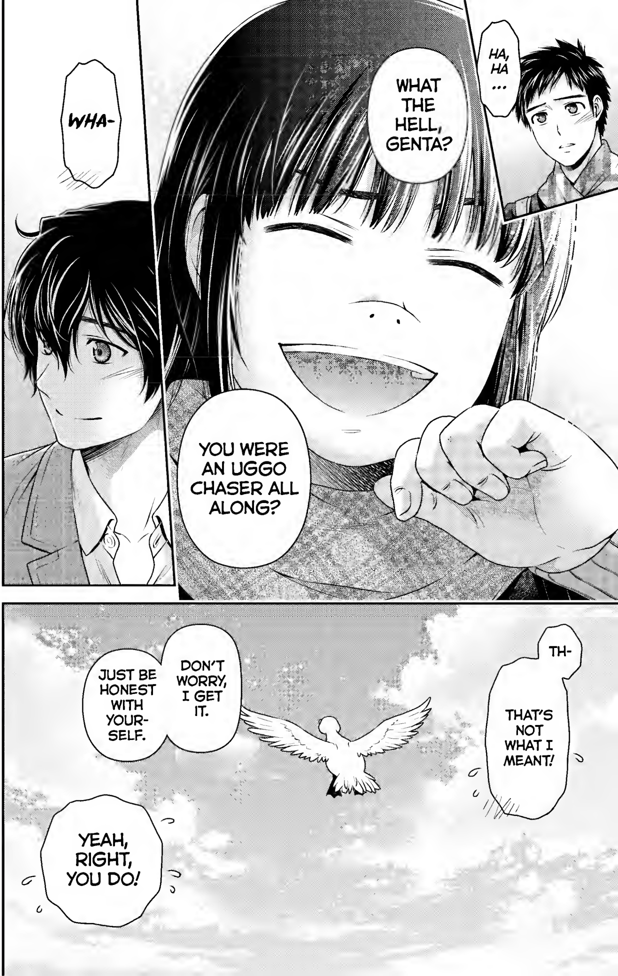
CHAPTER 124: SPREAD YOUR WINGS

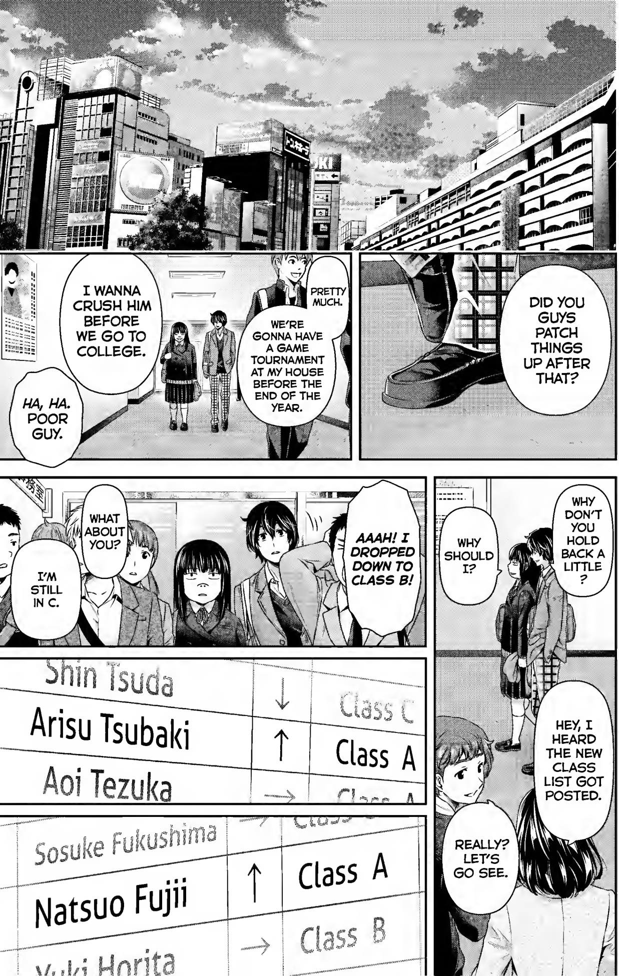

WHO THE HELL WOULD LIKE YOU?!
DUMBASS!
!
HOW SELF-ABSORBED DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO SAY SHIT LIKE, "PFF. NO WAY," WHEN I DIDN'T EVEN CONFESS TO YOU?!
DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME YOU POOPED YOUR PANTS AT MY HOUSE WHEN WE WERE LITTLE?!
OR THE TIME YOU STARTED BAWLING BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T BEAT ME AT VIDEO GAMES,
THEN BROKE A GLASS AFTER WAVING A CONTROLLER AROUND AND TRIED TO BLAME IT ON ME?!

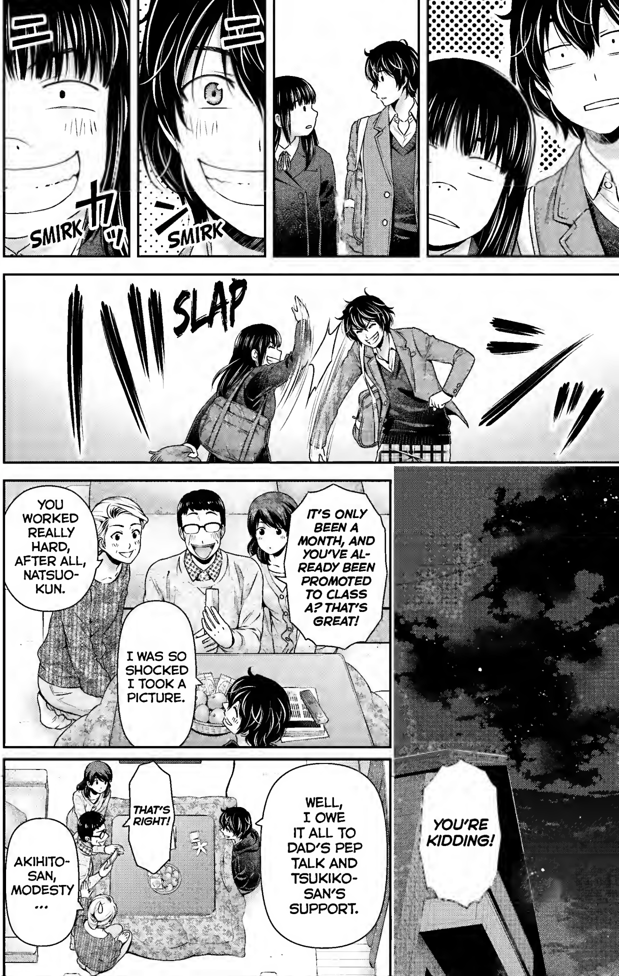

WHO THE HELL WOULD SEE YOU AS A GUY AFTER ALL THAT?!
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CREEPED OUT!
I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS, BUT YOU LET ME DOWN, GENTA!
YOU BIG LOSER!
FLAP
SLUMP
へな…
A-
ARISU…
HUFF
HUFF
THIS IS WHAT…
…I WANTED TO SAY BACK THEN.

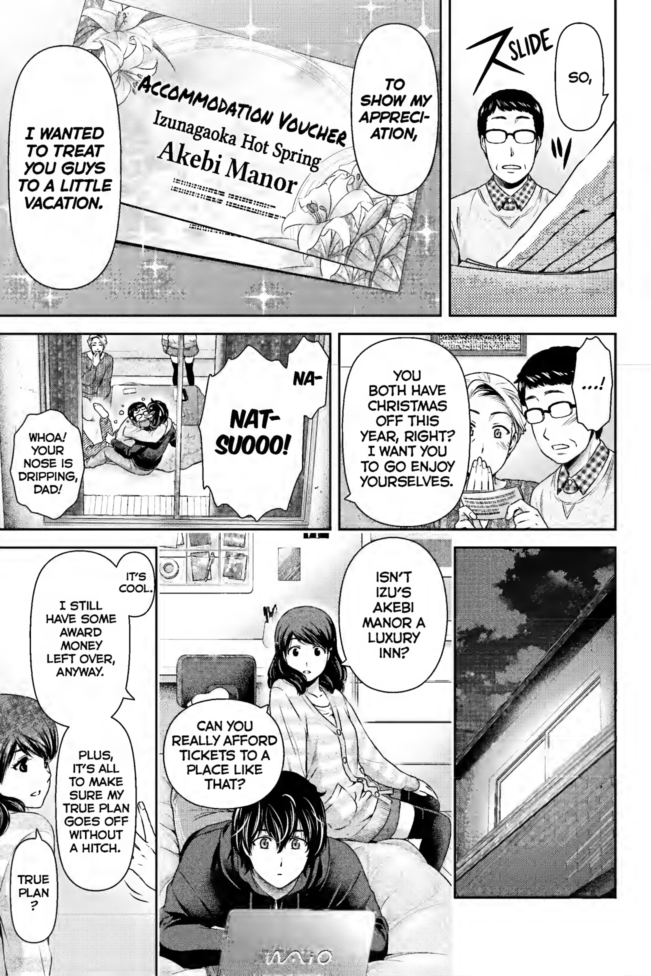

I WAS HURT BY WHAT GENTA SAID...
...BECAUSE I ACCEPTED IT AS TRUE.
BUT SOMETHING HIT ME WHEN YOU PUNCHED GENTA YESTERDAY.
I SAW...
...THAT I'D BEEN TRYING TO BLAME ALL OF MY PROBLEMS ON HIM.
I USED GETTING HURT AS AN EXCUSE TO STOP TRYING, AND JUST SHUT EVERYONE OUT.
BECAUSE IT WAS EASIER THAT WAY.
THERE WAS NO REASON...
TO LET WHAT ANYONE SAID GET TO ME.
YOUR LOOKS DON'T MATTER!
IN THE END, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS HUNG-UP ON MY LOOKS.
IT'S SO STUPID.
I WON'T LET OTHER PEOPLE'S VALUES CONTROL ME ANYMORE.

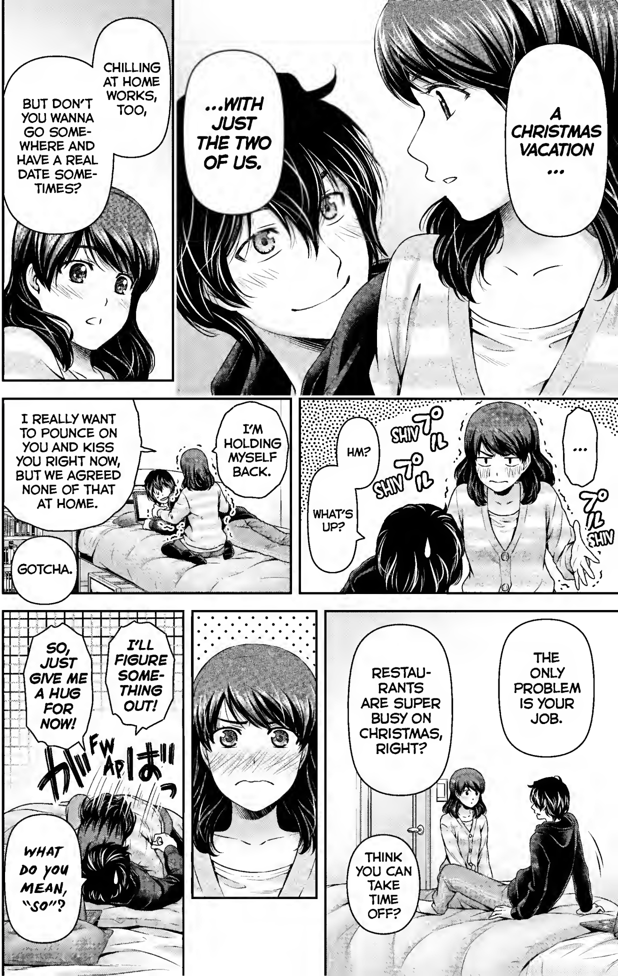

FROM NOW ON,
I'LL DECIDE WHAT I'M WORTH.
I'VE ALWAYS...
REGRETTED IT...
...TOO, Y'KNOW.
BACK THEN, I COULDN'T BE HONEST AND APOLOGIZE,
THEN WE JUST SORT OF STOPPED TALKING.
AND EVER SINCE,
NO MATTER WHO I DATED OR HUNG OUT WITH, I ALWAYS JUST FELT BORED.
I REALIZED THE THE MOST FUN I EVER HAD...
...WAS PLAYING SF WITH YOU.

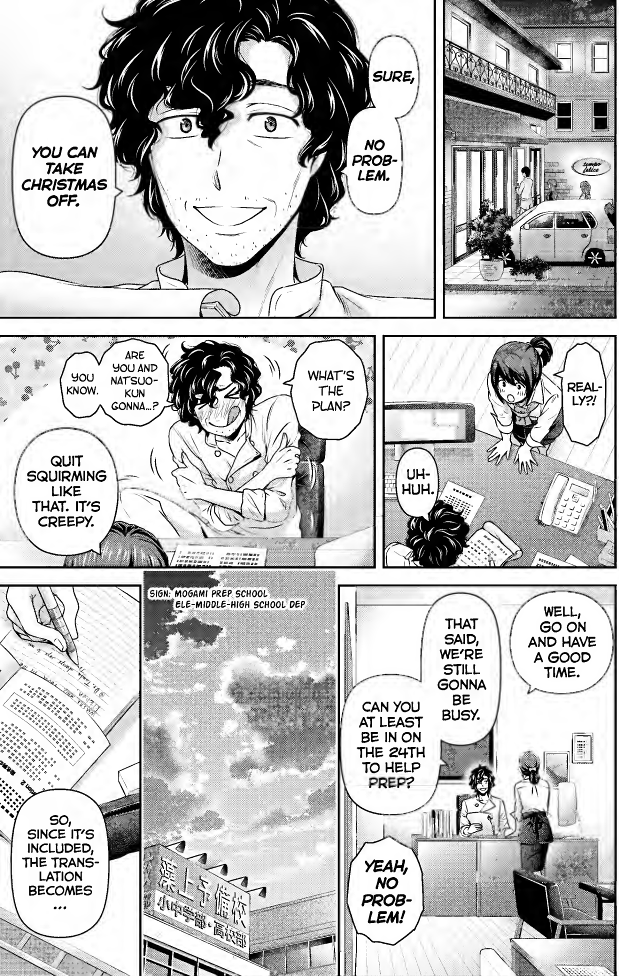

HA, HA ...
WHAT THE HELL, GENTA?
WHA-
YOU WERE AN UGGO CHASER ALL ALONG?
TH-
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
DON'T WORRY, I GET IT.
JUST BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF.
YEAH, RIGHT, YOU DO!

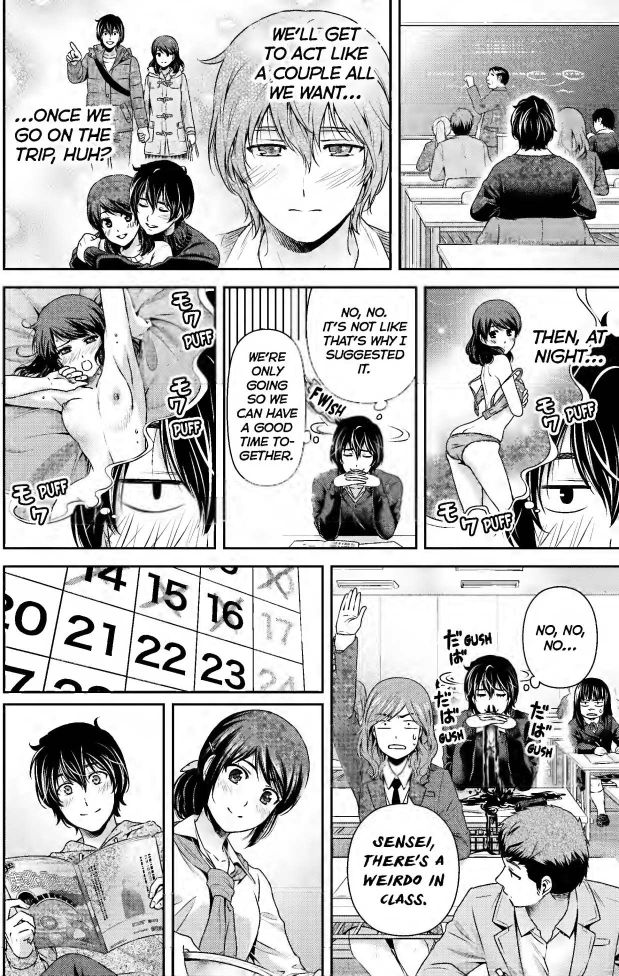

DID YOU GUYS PATCH THINGS UP AFTER THAT?
PRETTY MUCH.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE A GAME TOURNAMENT AT MY HOUSE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.
I WANNA CRUSH HIM BEFORE WE GO TO COLLEGE.
HA, HA. POOR GUY.
WHY DON'T YOU HOLD BACK A LITTLE?
WHY SHOULD I?
HEY, I HEARD THE NEW CLASS LIST GOT POSTED.
REALLY? LET'S GO SEE.
AAAH! I DROPPED DOWN TO CLASS B!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M STILL IN C.
Shin Tsuda ↓ Class C
Arisu Tsubaki ↑ Class A
Aoi Tezuka →
Sosuke Fukushima →
Natsuo Fujii ↑ Class A
Class B

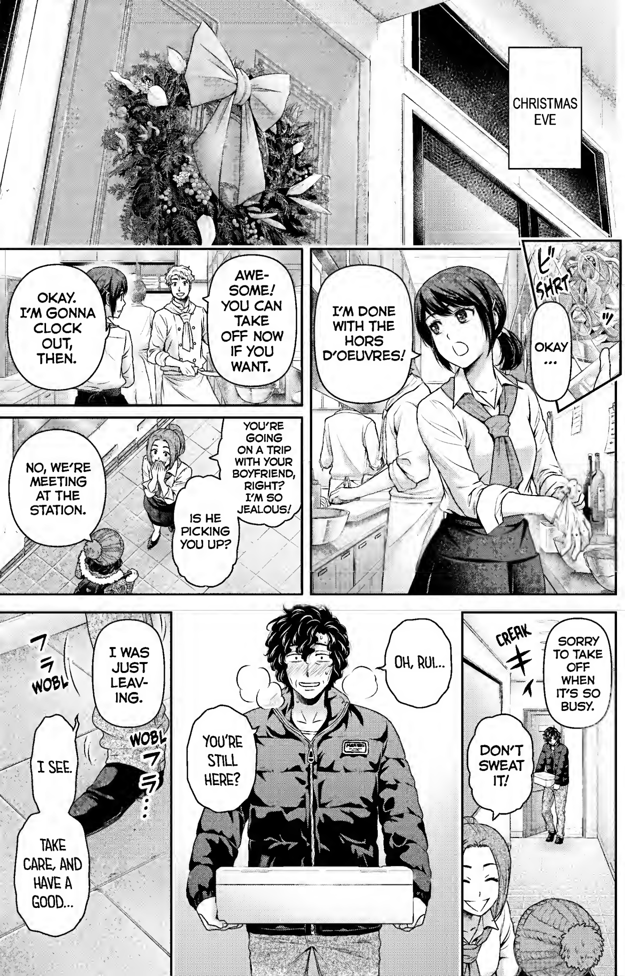

ニ
シ
SMIRK
ニ
SMIRK
カッ
SLAP
YOU'RE KIDDING!
IT'S ONLY BEEN A MONTH, AND YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN PROMOTED TO CLASS A? THAT'S GREAT!
YOU WORKED REALLY HARD, AFTER ALL, NATSUO-KUN.
I WAS SO SHOCKED I TOOK A PICTURE.
WELL, I OWE IT ALL TO DAD'S PEP TALK AND TSUKIKO-SAN'S SUPPORT.
THAT'S RIGHT!
AKIHITO-SAN, MODESTY…

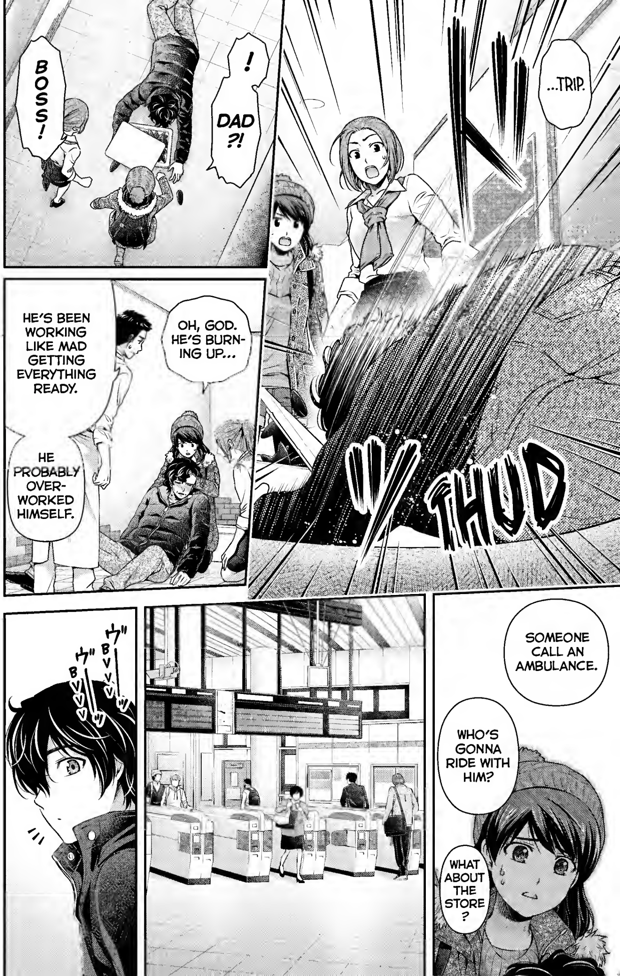

SLIDE
SO,
TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION,
ACCOMMODATION VOUCHER
Izunagaoka Hot Spring
Akebi Manor
I WANTED TO TREAT YOU GUYS TO A LITTLE VACATION.
...!
YOU BOTH HAVE CHRISTMAS OFF THIS YEAR, RIGHT? I WANT YOU TO GO ENJOY YOURSELVES.
NA-
NATSUOOO!
WHOA! YOUR NOSE IS DRIPPING, DAD!
ISN'T IZU'S AKEBI MANOR A LUXURY INN?
CAN YOU REALLY AFFORD TICKETS TO A PLACE LIKE THAT?
IT'S COOL.
I STILL HAVE SOME AWARD MONEY LEFT OVER, ANYWAY.
PLUS, IT'S ALL TO MAKE SURE MY TRUE PLAN GOES OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.
TRUE PLAN?

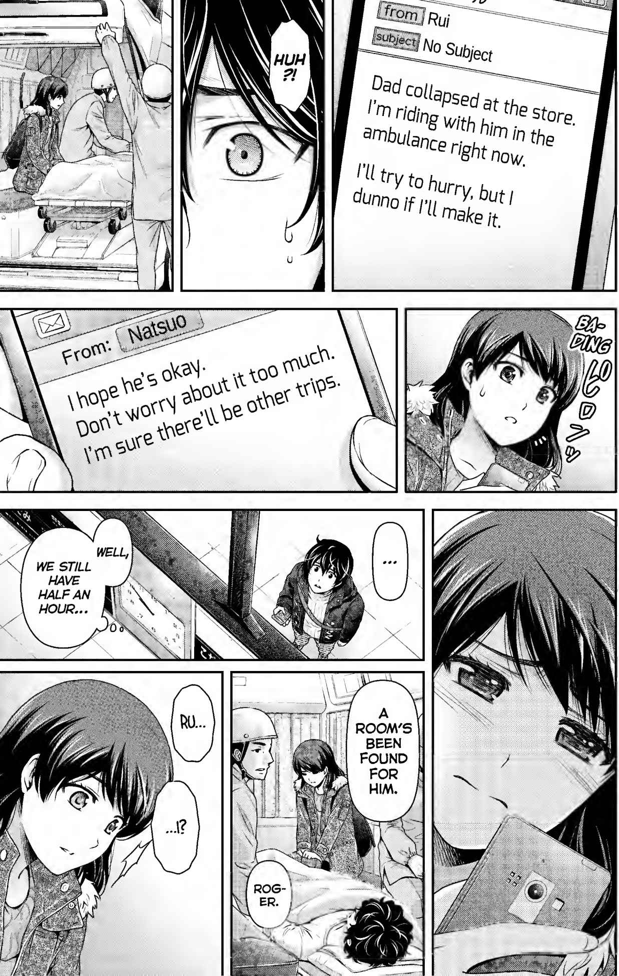

A CHRISTMAS VACATION…
…WITH JUST THE TWO OF US.
CHILLING AT HOME WORKS, TOO,
BUT DON'T YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE AND HAVE A REAL DATE SOMETIMES?
…
プル SHIV
HM?
SHIV プル
SHIV プル
WHAT'S UP?
I'M HOLDING MYSELF BACK.
I REALLY WANT TO POUNCE ON YOU AND KISS YOU RIGHT NOW, BUT WE AGREED NONE OF THAT AT HOME.
GOTCHA.
THE ONLY PROBLEM IS YOUR JOB.
RESTAURANTS ARE SUPER BUSY ON CHRISTMAS, RIGHT?
THINK YOU CAN TAKE TIME OFF?
I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT!
SO, JUST GIVE ME A HUG FOR NOW!
がばっ FWAP
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SO"?


tempo felice
SURE,
NO PROBLEM.
YOU CAN TAKE CHRISTMAS OFF.
REALLY?!
UH-HUH.
WHAT'S THE PLAN?
ARE YOU AND NATSUO-KUN GONNA...?
YOU KNOW.
QUIT SQUIRMING LIKE THAT. IT'S CREEPY.
WELL, GO ON AND HAVE A GOOD TIME.
THAT SAID, WE'RE STILL GONNA BE BUSY.
CAN YOU AT LEAST BE IN ON THE 24TH TO HELP PREP?
YEAH, NO PROBLEM!
SIGN: MOGAMI PREP SCHOOL ELE-MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL DEP
SO, SINCE IT'S INCLUDED, THE TRANSLATION BECOMES ...


WE'LL GET TO ACT LIKE A COUPLE ALL WE WANT...
...ONCE WE GO ON THE TRIP, HUH?
THEN, AT NIGHT...
モワ PUFF
モワ PUFF
NO, NO. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT'S WHY I SUGGESTED IT.
WE'RE ONLY GOING SO WE CAN HAVE A GOOD TIME TOGETHER.
FWISH
モワ PUFF
モワ PUFF
モワ PUFF
NO, NO, NO...
だば GUSH
だば GUSH
だば GUSH
SENSEI, THERE'S A WEIRDO IN CLASS.
14 15 16 17
20 21 22 23
東北・北海道


CHRISTMAS EVE
ビ SHRT
ツ
OKAY...
I'M DONE WITH THE HORS D'OEUVRES!
AWE-SOME! YOU CAN TAKE OFF NOW IF YOU WANT.
OKAY. I'M GONNA CLOCK OUT, THEN.
YOU'RE GOING ON A TRIP WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT? I'M SO JEALOUS!
IS HE PICKING YOU UP?
NO, WE'RE MEETING AT THE STATION.
CREAK キイ
SORRY TO TAKE OFF WHEN IT'S SO BUSY.
DON'T SWEAT IT!
OH, RUI...
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
I WAS JUST LEAV-ING.
フラ WOBL
I SEE.
WOBL フラ...
TAKE CARE, AND HAVE A GOOD...


...TRIP.
THUD
!
DAD ?!
BOSS!
OH, GOD. HE'S BURNING UP...
HE'S BEEN WORKING LIKE MAD GETTING EVERYTHING READY.
HE PROBABLY OVERWORKED HIMSELF.
SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE.
WHO'S GONNA RIDE WITH HIM?
WHAT ABOUT THE STORE?
ヴ BVVV
ヴ BVVV



from Rui

subject No Subject

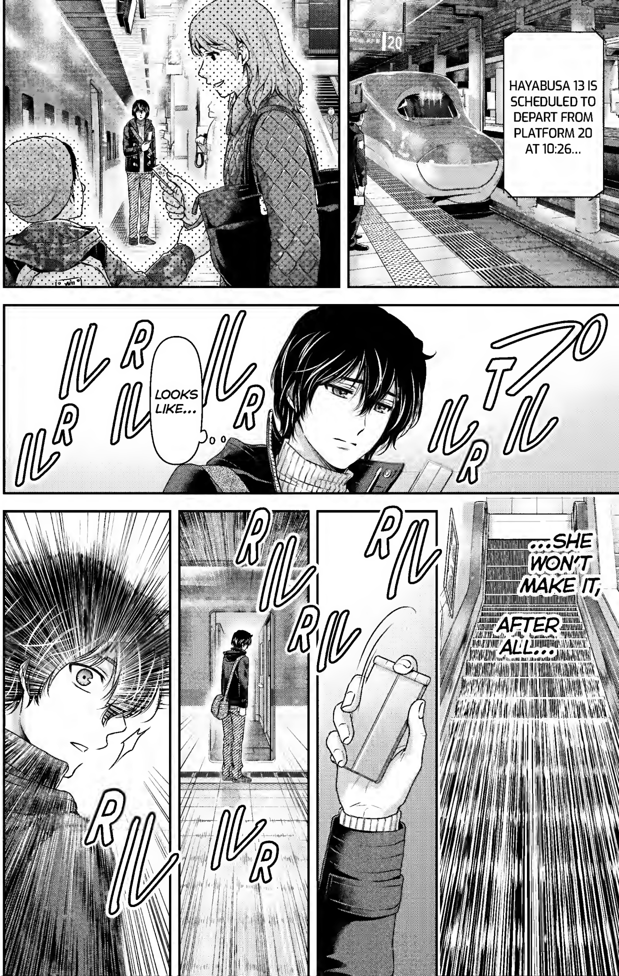
Dad collapsed at the store. I'm riding with him in the ambulance right now.

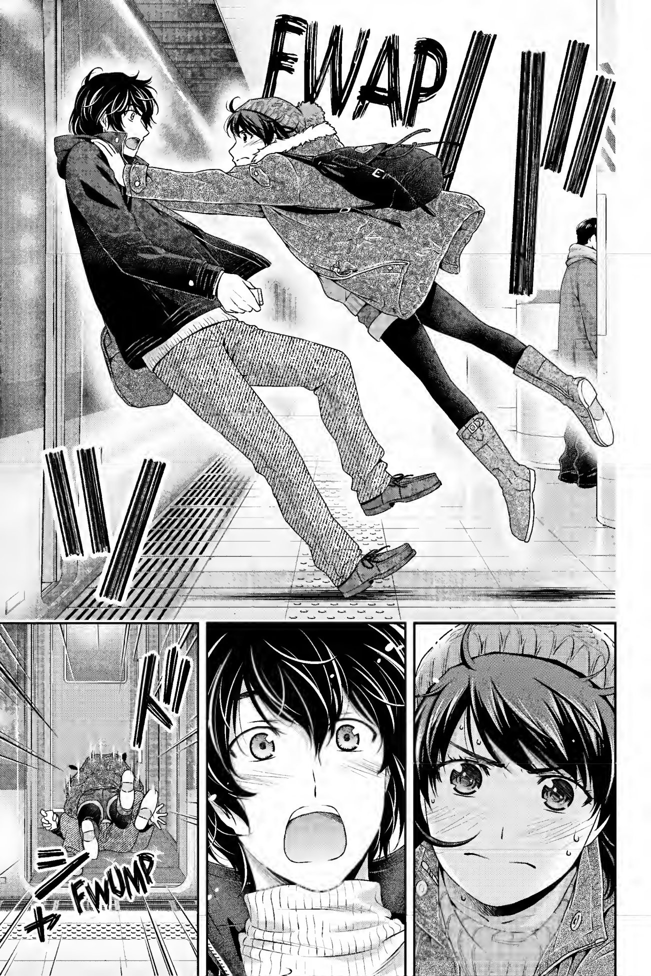
I'll try to hurry, but I dunno if I'll make it.

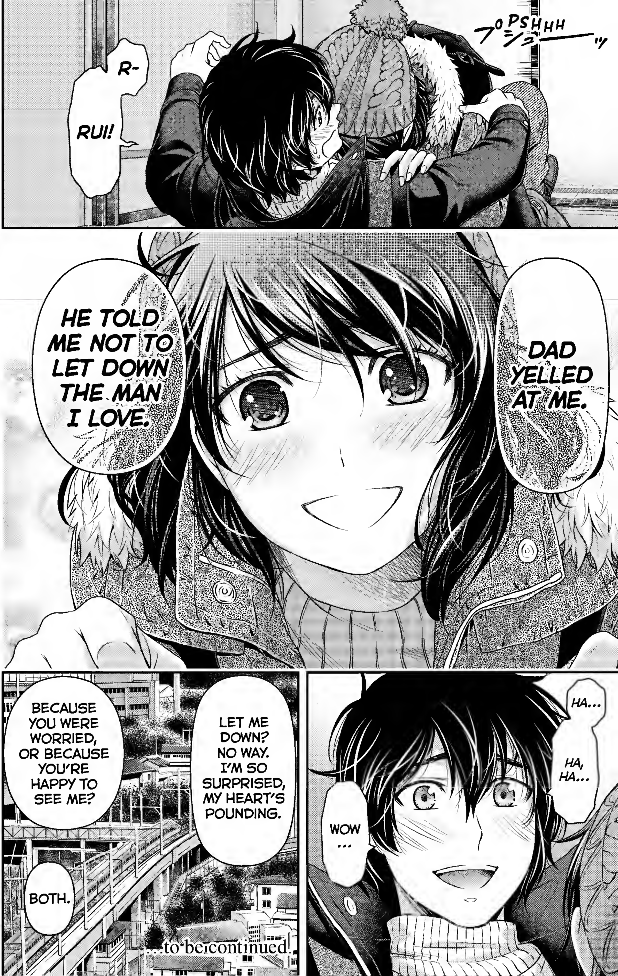
From: Natsuo

I hope he's okay. Don't worry about it too much. I'm sure there'll be other trips.

HUH?!
BA-DING
...
WELL, WE STILL HAVE HALF AN HOUR...
A ROOM'S BEEN FOUND FOR HIM.
ROG-ER.
RU...
...!?


HAYABUSA 13 IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FROM PLATFORM 20 AT 10:26...
20
TO
RRRR
LOOKS LIKE...
...SHE WON'T MAKE IT,
AFTER ALL...
RRRR


FWAP
FWUMP


PSHHH
プシューッ
R-
RUI!
DAD YELLED AT ME.
HE TOLD ME NOT TO LET DOWN THE MAN I LOVE.
HA...
HA, HA...
WOW...
LET ME DOWN? NO WAY. I'M SO SURPRISED, MY HEART'S POUNDING.
BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED, OR BECAUSE YOU'RE HAPPY TO SEE ME?
BOTH.

...to be continued.